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37

TOP-NOTCH

JULY
10¢

Laugh

comics



DOTTY

YO' PAPPY GOT A
HANKERIN' TO FIND
OUT HOW HIS NEW
BATH ROBE
WORKS, POKEY!



SEÑOR
SIESTA



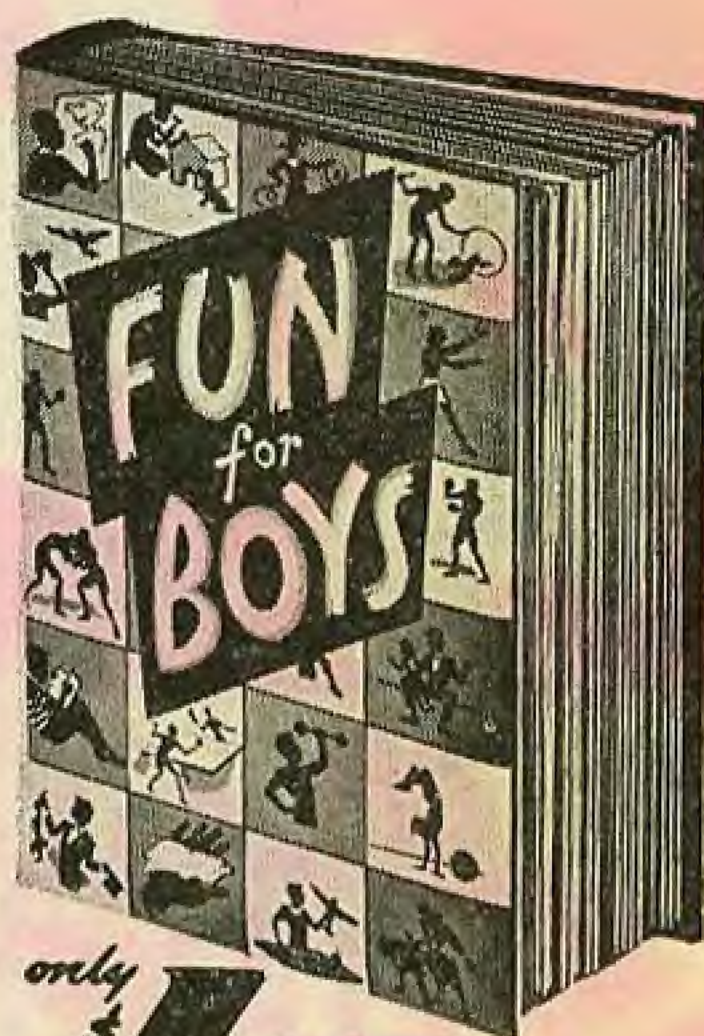
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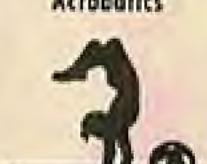
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POKEY OAKIE

by Don Deane.

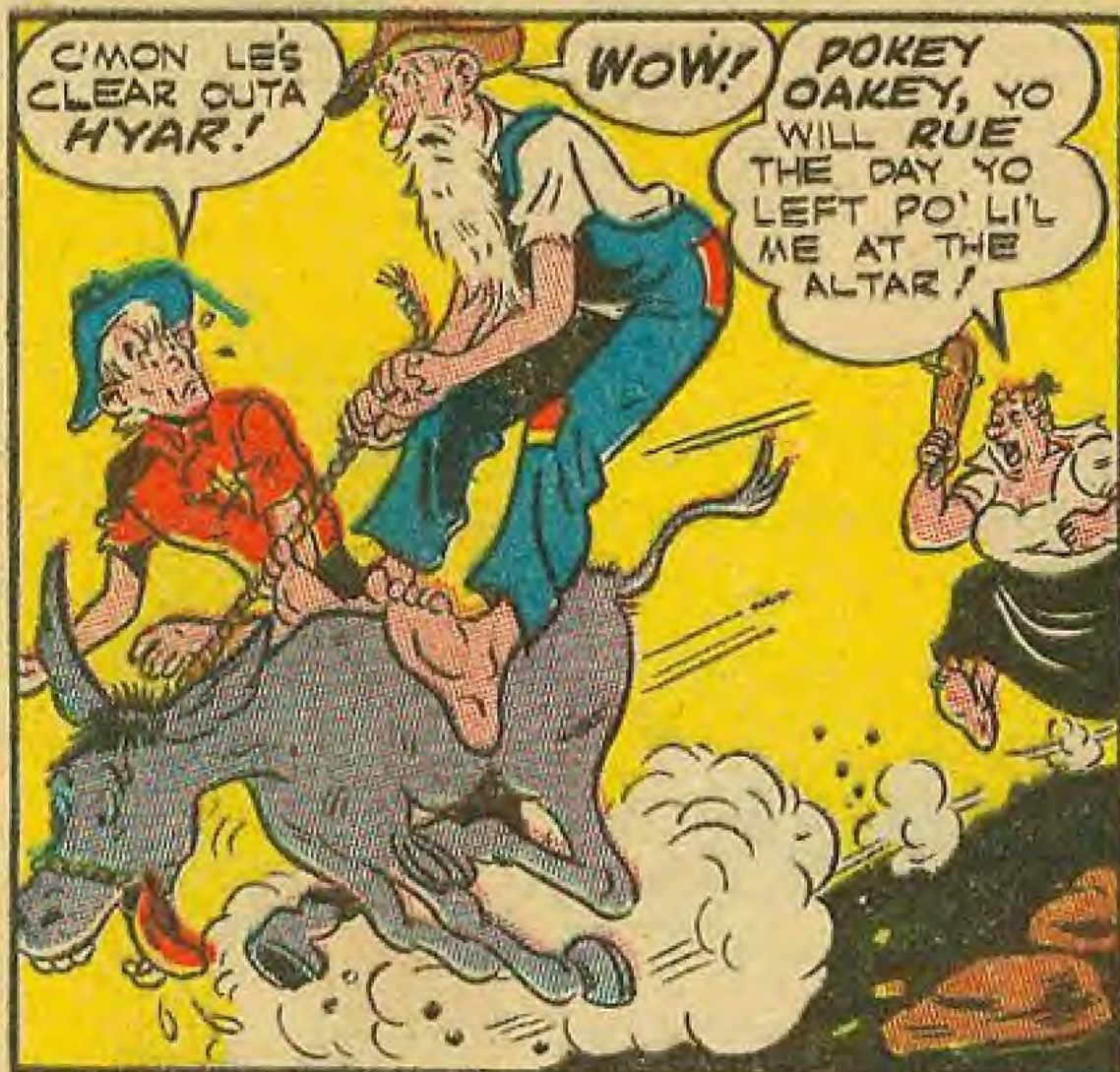
WHEN OUR STORY EXPIRED LAST MONTH, POKEY OAKIE, THE HILL-BILLY SHERIFF, WAS ABOUT TO BECOME THE 5TH HUSBAND OF WIDOW HOECAKE! NOW POKEY'S SOLE OBJECT IN THIS MATRIMONIAL FARCE IS TO MAKE HIMSELF ELIGIBLE TO ADOPT THE FOUNDLING CHILD "PEACHES" WHO IS BEING HELD BY THE COUNTY HOME.....

HALT! STOP
THEY MARRYIN'!!

...AN' AH NOW
PRONOUNCES
YO MAN AN'...

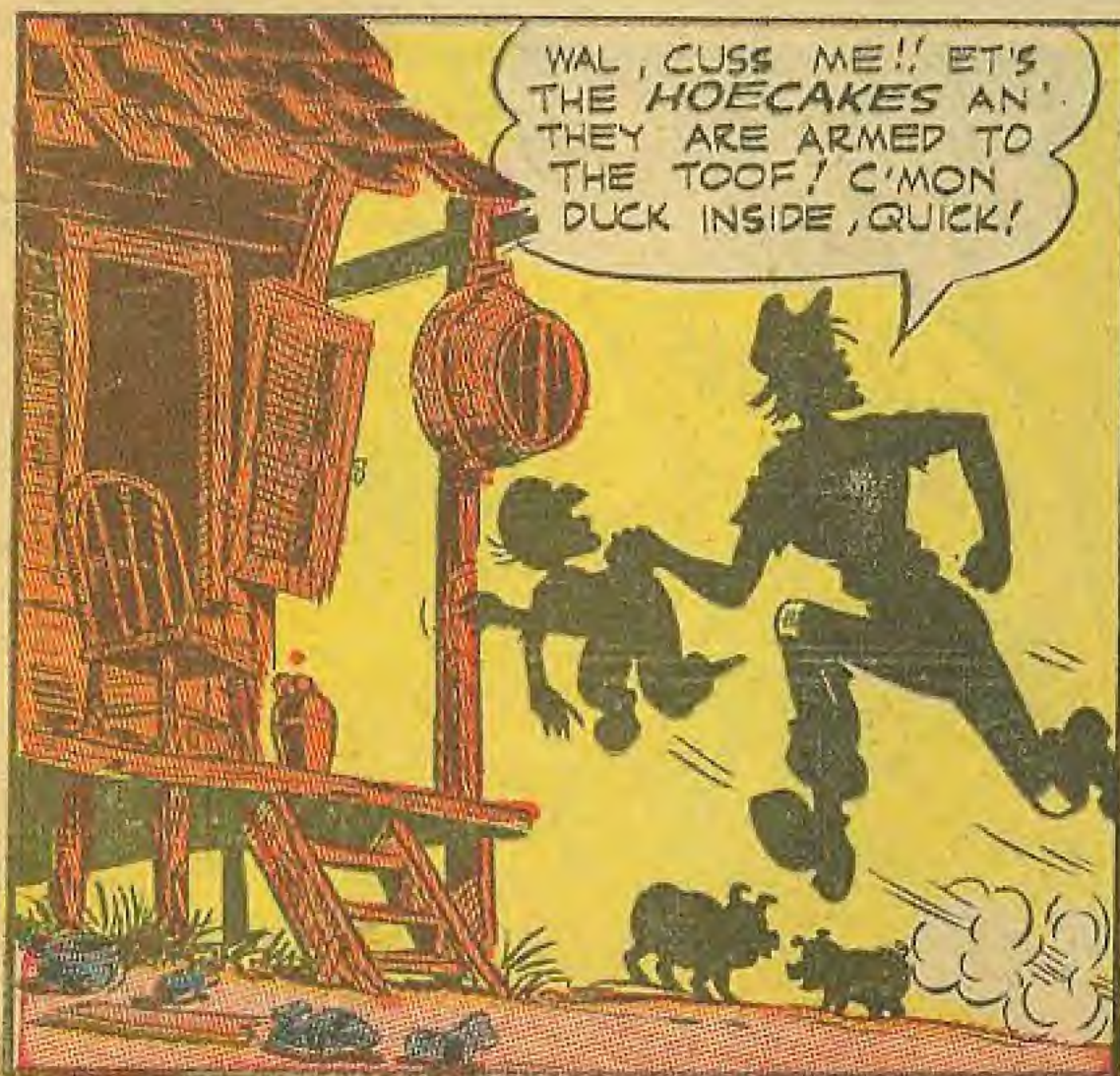
GUUP!

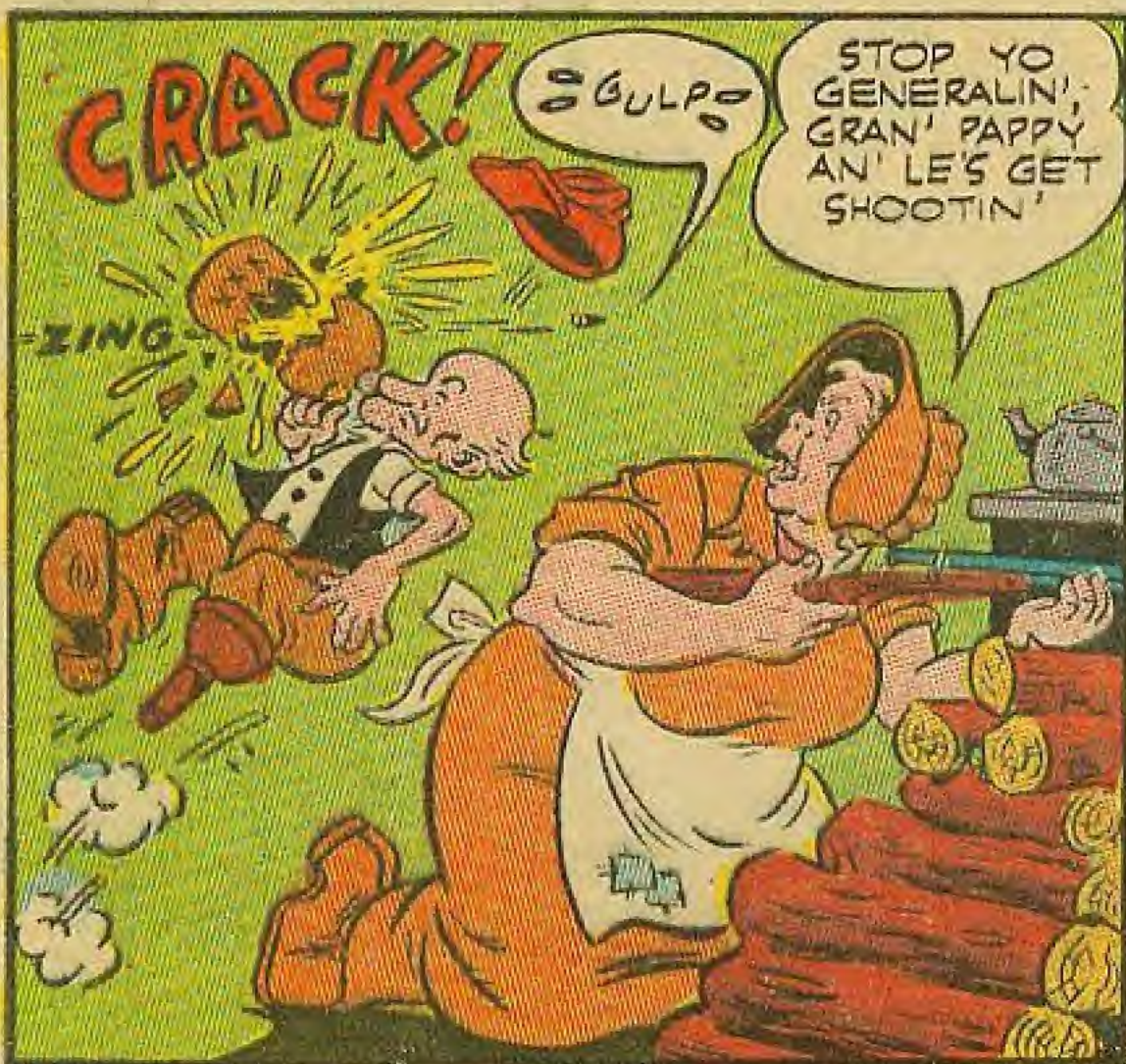


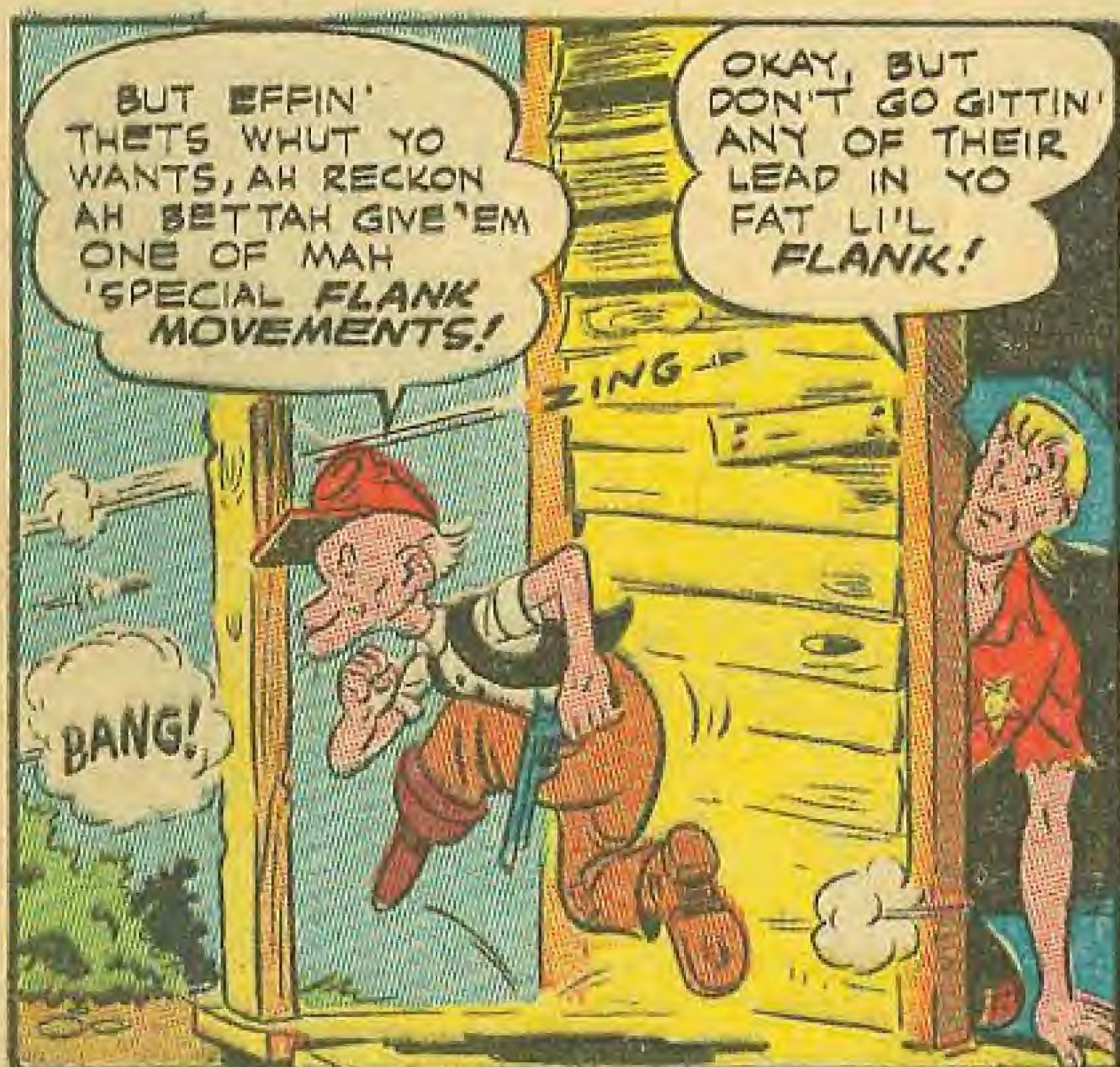
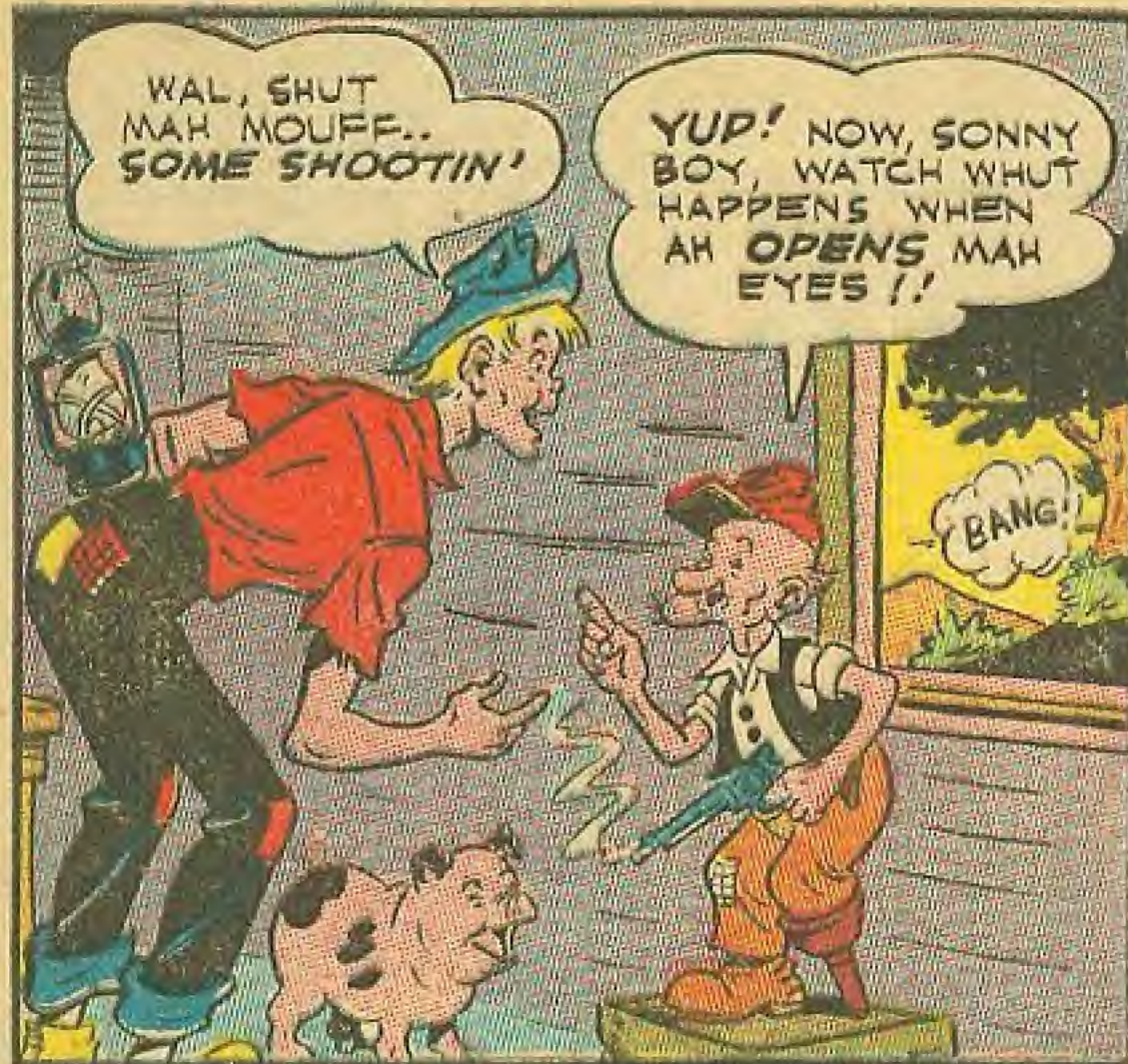




WHILE BACK AT **POKEY'S ABODE**...









THE

BLACK HOOD

IN THE LIVING WISH

MANY ARE THE MYSTERIES OF THE EAST... MYSTERIES BEYOND HUMAN UNDERSTANDING! WITH JUST SUCH A MYSTERY IS OUR TALE CONCERNED IN THE LEGEND OF THE LIVING WISH!

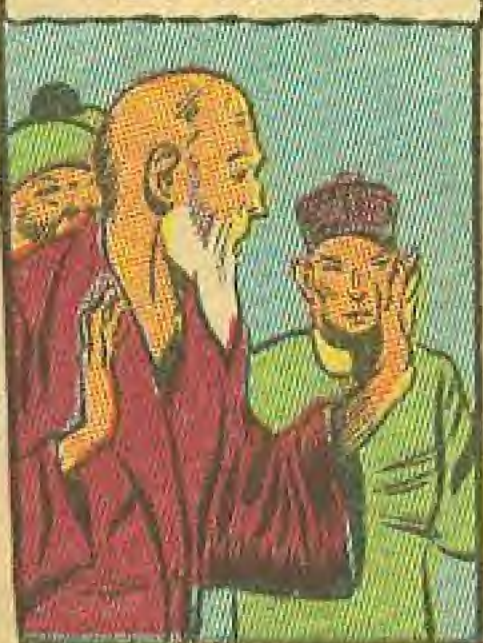


OUR TALE BEGINS IN ONE OF THOSE FABULOUS CITIES IN THE MOUNTAINS OF TIBET.. A CITY HIDDEN FROM THE OUTER WORLD...



AND IN IT THERE IS ONLY PEACE AND CONTENTMENT TO BE FOUND..ALL PRACTICING BROTHERLY LOVE!

ALL, THAT IS, BUT ONE..A MALCONTENT, KNOWN AS ZENITH, WHO IS ANXIOUS FOR POWER...



.. AND WHO STIRS UP THE PEOPLE WITH LIES AND HATRED..



.. AND SOON, A ONCE PEACE LOVING PEOPLE IS CHURNED INTO A CAULDRON OF SEETHING PASSIONS AND OPEN REVOLT TOWARD IT'S LEADERS...



ZENITH HAS DONE HIS WORK WELL,
AND THE MOB VIOLENCE BEGINS TO
SWELL! IMAGINARY INJURIES BEGIN TO
TAKE FORM! BUILD UP...

UNTIL THEY ERUPT IN AN
ORGY OF SABOTAGE A CITY
GONE MAD! REVOLUTION...

THERE IS, BUT
ONE THING TO DO..
AND PRAY TO BUDDHA
THAT IT IS NOT TOO
LATE.. GET RID
OF ZENITH!

THEN, THE CITY'S CHIEFTAINS
HOLD AN EMERGENCY COUNCIL,
AND REALIZE THAT QUICK
ACTION IS VITAL....

AND SO A DELEGATION
IS SOON ON THE WAY,
TO THE ABODE OF ZENITH...

.. WHOSE EVIL
MOCKING FACE
IS BUSILY INTENT
ON A BOOK HE
IS WRITING ...

AND WHEN THE
AUTHORITIES BREAK
IN, AND ARREST THE
TROUBLE-MAKER, HIS
FURY KNOWS NO BOUNDS...

.. BUT TO NO AVAIL..
ZENITH IS DRAGGED
TO THE TOWN-SQUARE,
AND JUSTLY PUNISHED..

.. BUT BEFORE THE
FLAMES CONSUME
HIM, HE UTTERS
TERRIBLE PROPHECY..

MY EVIL WILL LIVE
AS LONG AS MY
BOOK "THE
LIVING WISH"
LIVES!..

OUR SCENE, AND THE TIME CHANGE TO A NEW YORK NEWSPAPER OFFICE MANY THOUSANDS OF MILES AWAY...

AND YOU CALL YOURSELF A GOOD BOOK REVIEWER, BROOKS!



I'D SOONER SEE THAT PAINTER FALL OFF HIS SCAFFOLD, THAN HAVE MY PAPER GIVE THIS BOOK A GOOD REVIEW!

THE LIVING WISH

TELLING ME, THIS PIECE OF TRASH, AN UNUSUAL BOOK, WHEN IT'S SO OBVIOUSLY A HOAX!!

I SUPPOSE YOU'RE GOING TO TELL ME THIS BOOK HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH IT, BROOKS! GET OUT, AND TAKE THIS JUNK WITH YOU!!



HELLO, BARBARA!



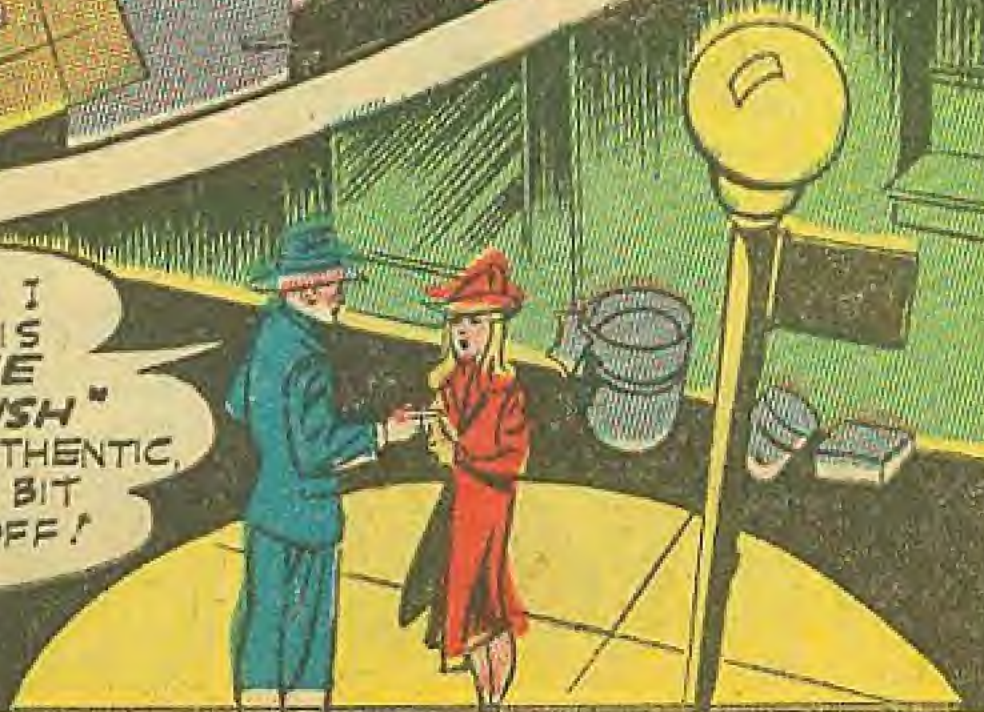
DAILY BLADE

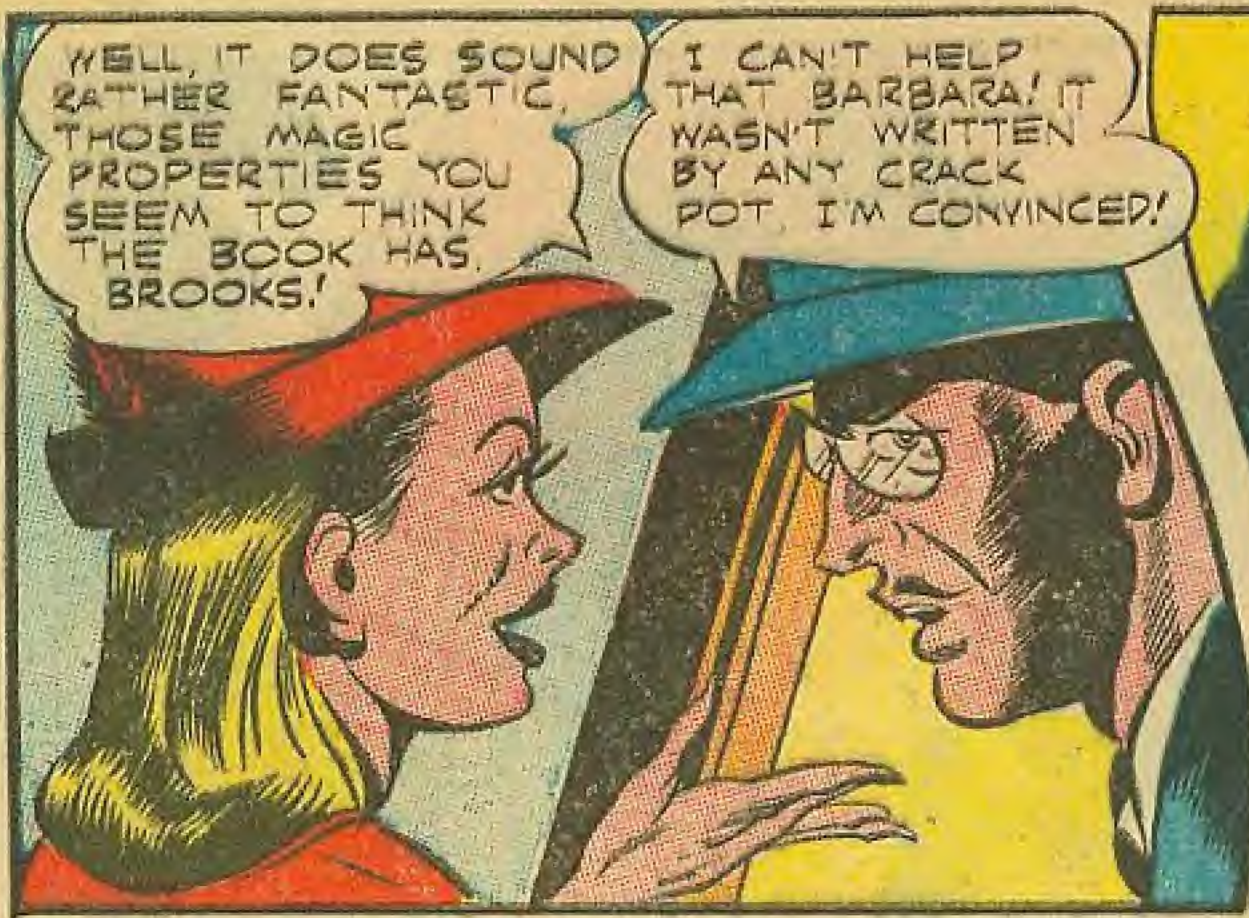
HELLO, BROOKS! YOU LOOK, AS THOUGH YOU SWALLOWED A LEMON!

I'VE BEEN FIGHTING WITH ONE, ANYWAY... WEYLAND, OUR EDITOR, THE THICK-HEADED SAP! I QUIT TOO!

PHEW!! WHAT HAPPENED?

..AND WHEN I INSISTED THIS BOOK, "THE LIVING WISH" SOUNDED AUTHENTIC, HE ALMOST BIT MY HEAD OFF!





WELL, IT DOES SOUND RATHER FANTASTIC. THOSE MAGIC PROPERTIES YOU SEEM TO THINK THE BOOK HAS, BROOKS!

I CAN'T HELP THAT BARBARA! IT WASN'T WRITTEN BY ANY CRACK POT. I'M CONVINCED!



ANYWAY I'M MAILING THIS BOOK BACK TO IT'S AUTHOR, AND I HOPE THAT WEYLAND DROPS DEAD!

GOOD GRIEF! YOU CERTAINLY DON'T LIKE WEYLAND!



SAY, JOE, WHAT'S THAT CROWD AROUND WEYLAND'S OFFICE FOR?

OH, IT'S TERRIBLE, MISS SUTTON!



WEYLAND JUST DROPPED DEAD!

BARBARA MAKES A HASTY CALL TO KIP BURLAND'S...

AND KIP I KNOW IT SOUNDS FOOLISH, BUT SOMEHOW I FEEL THAT BOOK HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH IT!

HMM... TWO DEATHS CAUSED BY JUST WISHING - EH??



BARBARA, YOUR INTUITION MAY BE RIGHT.. AND YOU SAY BROOKS MAILED THAT BOOK BACK? DO YOU KNOW TO WHO??

YES, I CHECKED ON OUR FILES! A MR. ZENITH! I ALSO HAVE HIS ADDRESS!

GOOD! LET'S DO SOME CHECKING!

WE'D LIKE TO SEE A MR. ZENITH!



MR. ZENITH? LAND SAKES! AIN'T NOBODY HERE BY THAT NAME!







KIP! LOOK!
THAT MAN HAS THE
BOOK! I RECOGNIZE
THE PACKAGE!



HEY, YOU!

NIX! I'M NOT
STICKIN' AROUND FOR
NOBODY



I RECOGNIZE THAT
GUY! HE'S PINKY
HIGGINS, SMALL
TIME CROOK!



..AND THE
**BLACK
HOOD'S**
GOT TO
GET IT
BACK!



CRIPES! NOW DE BLACK HOOD'S
TAILIN' ME, AND ALL 'CAUSE
O' DIS PACKAGE! I GOTTA
GET SOME HELP!!



PINKY HIGGINS!
WHAT'RE YOU
CRASHIN' IN FOR?
YOU IN TROUBLE?



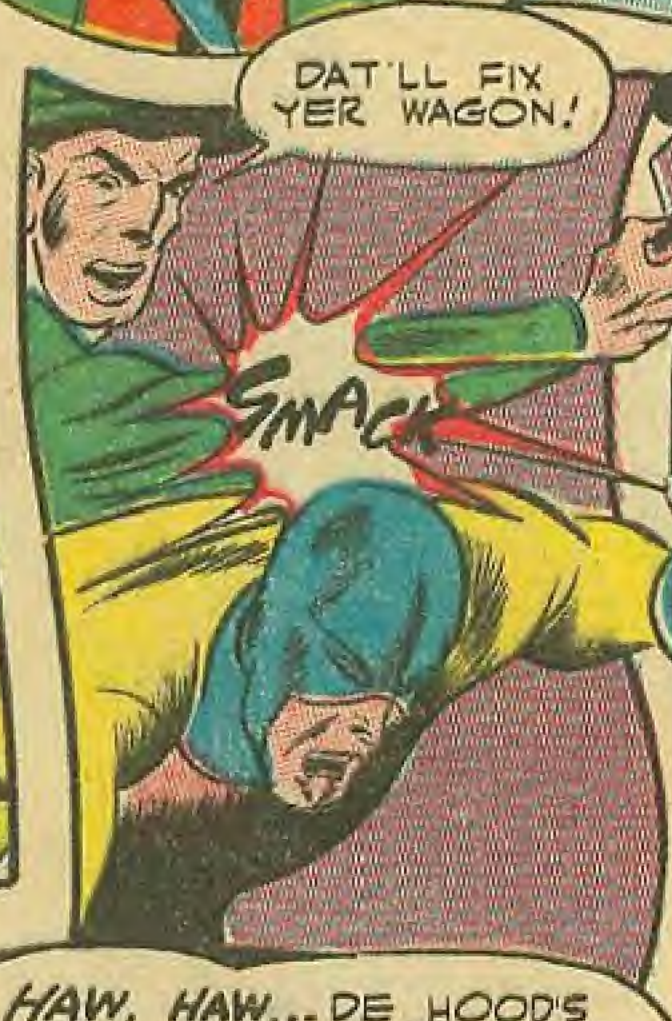
PLENTY,
BUTCHER! DE **BLACK
HOOD'S**
AFTER
ME!!

WHAT...
AND YOU
LED
HIM
HERE?



YOU SNIVELIN' RAT! AIN'T
I GOT ENOUGH TROUBLE
WITH THE COPPERS, BUT
YOU GOTTA BRING
THAT GUY
HERE!!

PINKY
DUCKED ME
ON THIS FLOOR!
AND THERE'S
ONLY **ONE**
DOOR HERE!



THANKS, BUTCHER!
NOW I WISH THE LAW
WOULD CATCH UP WITH
YOU FOR YOUR CRIMES!

WOT IN..
COPS!

IT'S DEM. ALL RIGHT!
AND DEY'RE COMIN' HERE,
AS THOUGH DEY MEAN
BUSINESS! DEY MUSTA
PINNED DAT WAXY HOLDEN
BUMPOFF ON TO
ME!

OKAY! DE COPS'LL
GET ME, HOOD,
BUT I'LL GET
YOU FIRST!

IT'S **BUTCHER** AT
THAT WINDOW, ABOUT
TO BLAST SOMEBODY!
BOY, WHAT A TARGET
HE MAKES!

C'MON IN, BOYS! HOLY
CROCKEYE.. IT'S THE
BLACK HOOD IN HERE!

LATE THAT
EVENING...

AND YOU
MEAN YOU
JUST WISHED
BUTCHER, AND
HIS MOB OUT
OF EXISTENCE
WITH THAT
BOOK, KIP?

YES.. AND IN
THE PROCESS
WISHED MYSELF
A NEW LEASE
ON LIFE!

BUT THIS BOOK IS
TOO DANGEROUS, TO BE
IN EXISTENCE! I'M
RIDDING THE WORLD
OF IT, ONCE AND
FOR ALL!

AND AS THE **LIVING WISH**
SMOULDER'S IN THE FLAMES, A
CURIOUS SCENE TAKES PLACE
IN THE LAND OF ITS ORIGIN!

(SEE.. THE CAULDRON FLAMES
ONCE AGAIN! IT IS AN OMEN!
THE EVIL OF **ZENITH** IS
AT LAST DESTROYED!

DIPS OF DISTINCTION

(A TRUE CRIME FEATURE)

by THE BLACK HOOD

PICKPOCKETS, known in the underworld as dips, are, for the most part, a drab and sorry lot. Junkies or drug addicts, for the most part, they live by a sort of a lousy stealth. They steal from day to day hardly enough to keep their habits satisfied. But there have been a few dips of distinction.

Three instances of the sort pop into mind—one a man, one a woman and the other a child. The child, strangely enough, was the most expert, successful and wealthy of the ill-assorted trio. So, we will treat of this child first. He was Harry Dubrinsky, aged 13, when the cops finally ended his racket by deporting the whole family back to Russia. But he had already had a rich and successful career—this Russian brat. He had the airs of a crown prince and the manners of a personage of the royal rather than the criminal courts.

Dips, as a rule, work in mobs and in concert. The stall attracts and confuses the victim, while the finder locates the treasure, poke or pocket-book. The tool goes rapidly over the victim, removing money and jewelry. This is handed to the stall, who stands still while the tool runs. If the tool is captured no evidence is found on him. In the meantime the stall has passed the loot to the lookout, who disposes of the leather, or purse, and holds the loot for the high-mobsmen or leader.

The three dips of distinction we have in mind were lone wolves. They did their own stalling, finding, fanning and heisting. Being wise heads, they dispensed with helpers as so much incriminating excess-baggage.

* * *

Harry Dubrinsky, alias Honey Dulch or Sweet Honey, really was a sweet kid to look

at. Women loved him in his Little Lord Fauntleroy suits and make-up. That is why he belonged to that rare type of crook known as mollbuzzers or robbers who specialize in women victims.

Honey Dulch hit these shores during the McKinley presidential administration and worked through the Teddy Roosevelt administration, which is important to the story. With him were his father, mother and two older sisters, none of whom worked. Honey Dulch, sweet boy that he was, rolled up a modest fortune for the family and an underworld lawyer and the lawyer's gun moll.

The Dubrinsky family remained in luxury at New York hotels while Honey Dulch with the lawyer and the gun moll traveled about the country stopping at the most expensive hotels and resorts. Honey Dulch carried a copy of a magazine bearing a picture of

CONTINUED AFTER SENOR SIESTA

**WE PRESENT THE
WINNER OF OUR
LETTER CONTEST-
AND THE PRIZE -**

**ALICE ENG ... WINNER OF THE
JULY TOP NOTCH LAUGH CONTEST!**

*To Alice
Sincerely
M.L.H.*

by
"RED"
HOLMDALE



Readers' Page

EVERYBODY WINS! NOBODY LOSES! ENTER THIS UNUSUAL CONTEST RIGHT NOW! ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS SEND A SNAPSHOT OF YOURSELF AND A LETTER US WHICH CHARACTER YOU LIKE BEST IN TOP-NOTCH LAUGH COMICS --- AND WHY!

THE BEST LETTER WILL RECEIVE A LIFE-SIZED PORTRAIT AS SHOWN ON THE OPPOSITE PAGE!

ADDRESS YOUR LETTER TO TOP-NOTCH LAUGH COMICS, 60 HUDSON STREET, RM. 315, N. Y. C. - BUT WIN OR LOSE, YOUR PICTURE WILL BE PUBLISHED AS SHOWN BELOW!

THE WINNER



ALAN PRUSAN
1372 E. 15th STREET
BROOKLYN, N. Y.

---- AND HIS WINNING LETTER!

I have read every issue of Top Notch Laugh Comics, and have found it to be the most amusing of all the comic books I have read. I enjoy every single character, but the one I like best is Gloomy Gus. I like it because I never know what's coming next and it's filled with excitement and laughter from start to finish.

Keep us smiling!
Alan Prusan

HONORABLE MENTION



FLORA CURREN
821 CHARLES AVE.
MORGANTOWN, W. VA.



DONALD BROWN
1957 VERMONT AVE.
TOLEDO, OHIO



ROSE HAMMONS
RINGLING, OKLA.
BOX 63



ALBERT GAMBLE
RISCO, MISSOURI
BOX 37



ELDOR STUCKEY
EASTMAN, WIS.
BOX 24



EMERSON DUVAL
OLYMPIA, WASH.
RT. 1



BARBARA FARRELL
PITTSFIELD,
MASSACHUSETTS



WALTER ZIENCINA
16 KIRKLAND AVE.
LUDLOW, MASS.



ANN DIETRICH
2304 FIRST ST.
ALTOONA, PA.



MELVIN FANNING
210 SO. 6th ST.
LAWTON, OKLA.



NORMA REYNOLDS
4311 SAN JACINTO
DALLAS, TEXAS



JOSEPH HUGHES
RD. #1
SUMMIT, PA.

SEÑOR SIESTA

WHEN LAST WE SAW SEÑOR SIESTA, HE WAS IN GREAT DESPAIR! IT SEEMS HE WAS UNFORTUNATE ENOUGH TO FALL IN LOVE WITH A GYPSY CHIEFTAIN'S DAUGHTER, WHO MUST MARRY THE MAN THAT PRESENTS HER FATHER WITH THE FINEST HORSE! SO CARRY ON!

by
Don Dean.

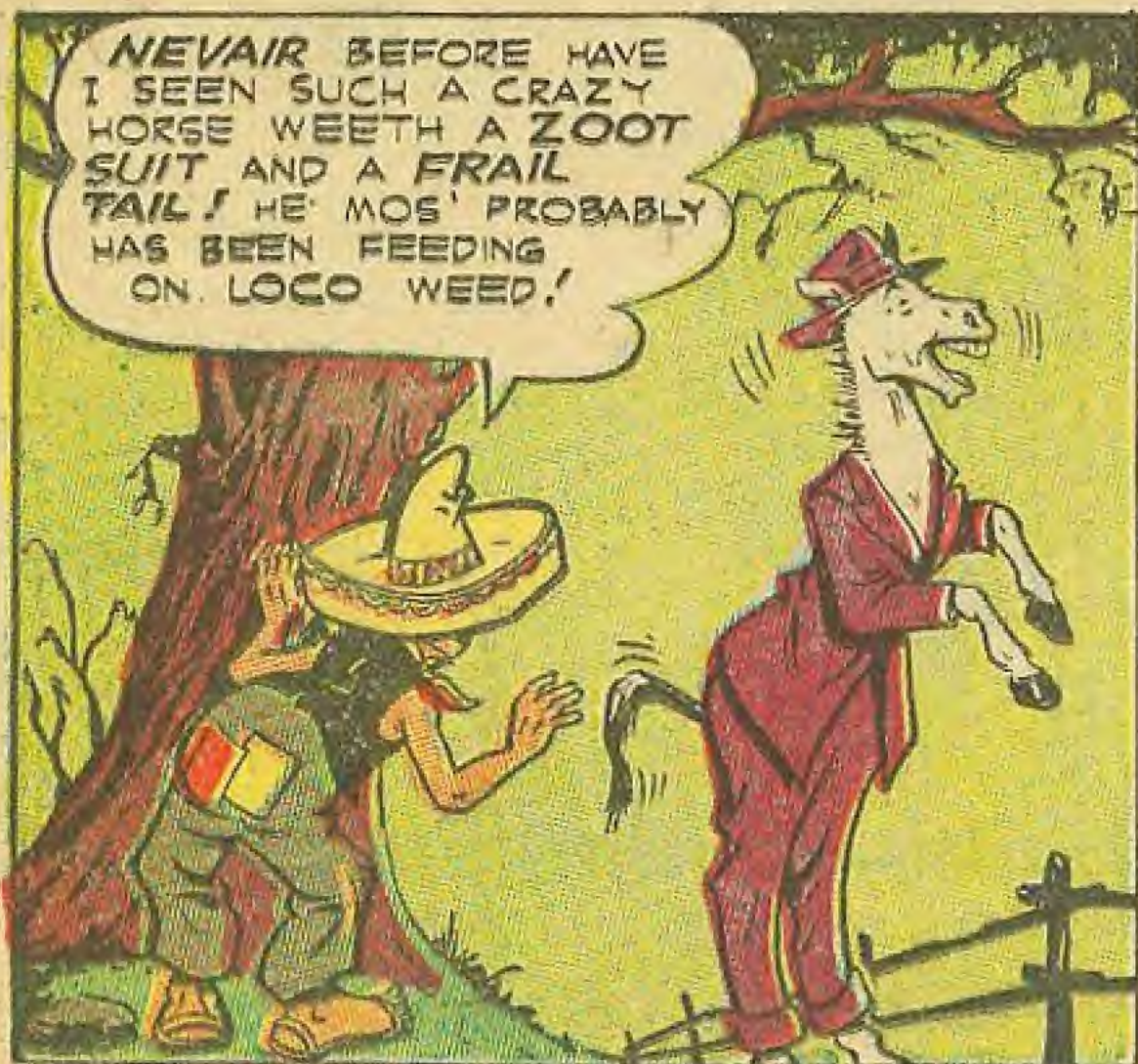
ALAS, EEF ONLY I COULD BUY THE BES' HORSE EEN ALL MEXICO. THEN LEETLE ROSITA WOULD BE MINE! BOOT I AM PENNILESS! I FEEL MEESERABLE AS A CENTIPEDE WEETH FALLEN ARCHES!!



HOLY SANTA S'MOSES!!
WHAT AM I SEEING..
NIGHT MARES?

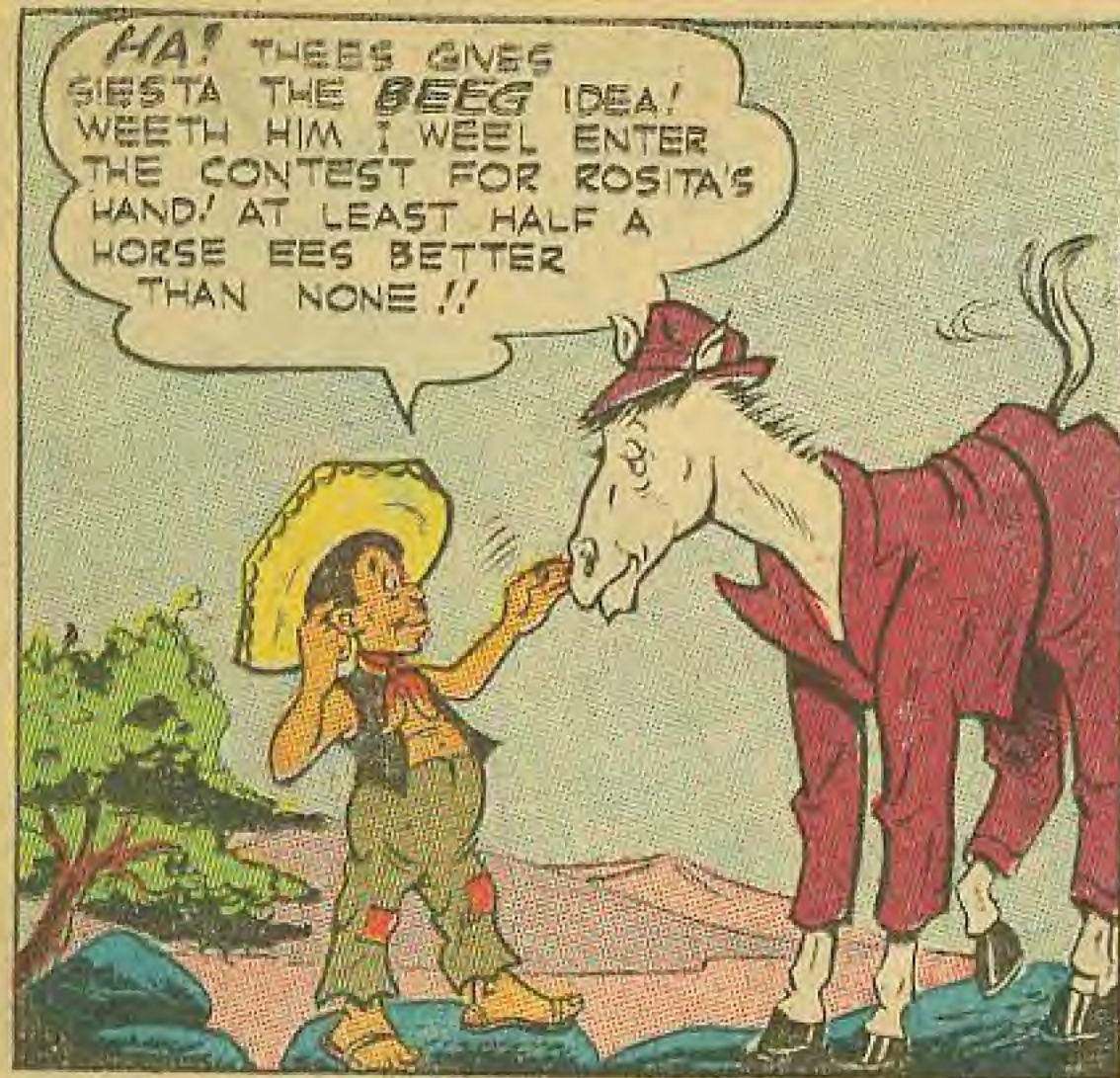


NEVAIR BEFORE HAVE I SEEN SUCH A CRAZY HORSE WEETH A ZOOT SUIT AND A FRAIL TAIL! HE MOS' PROBABLY HAS BEEN FEEDING ON LOCO WEED!



Ho, Ho, Ho!
HE EES VER' FONNY
AND EES FULL
OF THE TREECKS!





HA! THEES GIVES
SIESTA THE **BEEG** IDEA!
WEETH HIM I WEEL ENTER
THE CONTEST FOR ROSITA'S
HAND! AT LEAST HALF A
HORSE EES BETTER
THAN NONE !!



AND EVEN EEF I LOSE
I CAN ALWAYS SELL HEEM
TO SOME AMERICANO
HAMBURG STAND
NOWDAYS !!



GOOD DAY, ROSITA,
MY LOVE! BEHOLD I
HAVE BROUGHT A
HORSE FOR YOUR
FATHER'S CONSIDERATION!

HORSE?
SIESTA, YOU ARE
HOPELESS! EVEN
THE VULTURES
WOULD **SNUB**
THAT ANIMAL!



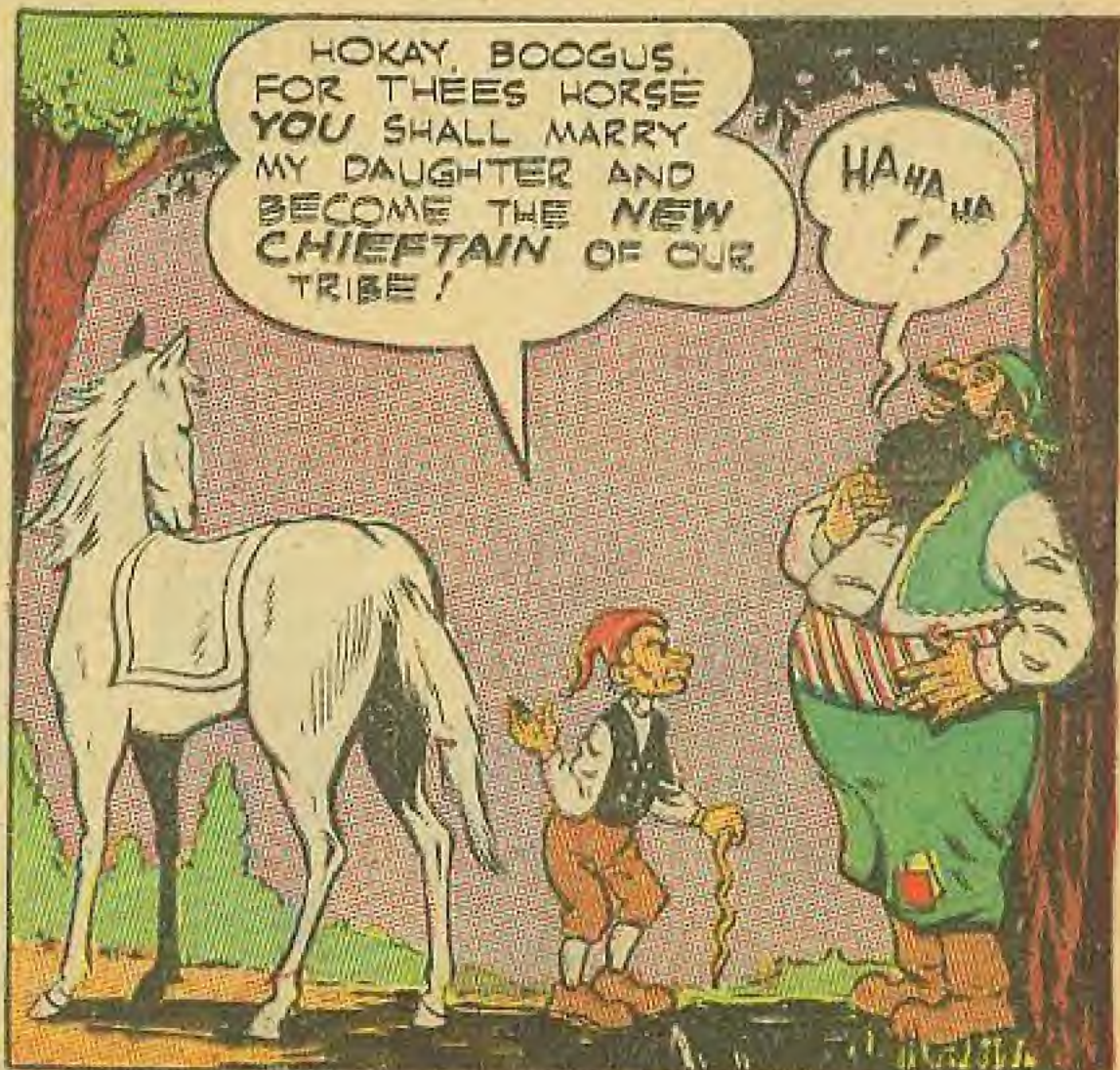
LOOK AT THE **BEAUTIFUL**
HORSE BOOGUS WOOGUS
IS OFFERING MY PAPA FOR
MY HAND EEN MARRIAGE!

=GULP=



THEES EES A
FINE SPECIMEN ALL
RIGHT, BOOGUS WOOGUS,
BOOT HOW DO I KNOW
HE EES THE **BEE**
HORSE EEN ALL
MEXICO ??

HO, HO, HO,
VER' SEEMPLE
SEÑOR! LOOK I
EVEN STEAL HEES
BLUE RIBBONS
TOO FOR THE
PROOF!

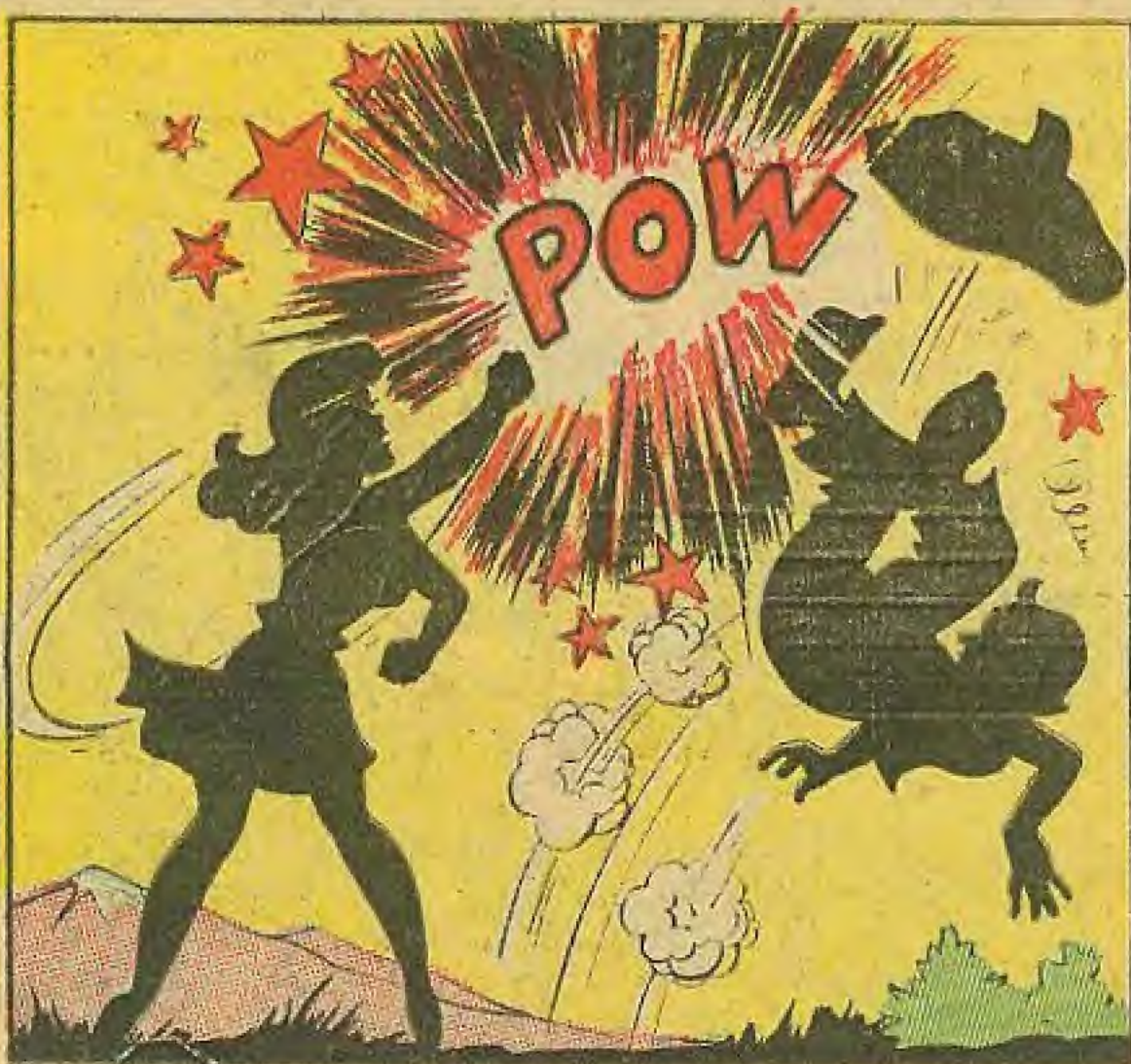


HOKAY, BOOGUS,
FOR THEES HORSE
YOU SHALL MARRY
MY DAUGHTER AND
BECOME THE **NEW**
CHIEFTAIN OF OUR
TRIBE!

HA HA HA
!!







.. AND THEES
FOR YOU TOO..
YOU LEETLE
DOUBLA-CROSS
CROOK!

OOF!

THERE EES
THE MAN, SEÑOR,
WHO GEEVE
ME THE HORSE
WITH THE SUIT!

AHH-HAAH!

SO EET WAS
YOU WHO SWIPE
MY CIRCUS HORSE
EH? LEETLE HORSE
THIEF, I SHALL CUT
OFF YOUR EARS!

S. SEÑOR
P. PULEEZE
BELIEVE ME..
I ONLY FIND
THE HORSE!

WAIT, JOSE, I CAN NOT
STAND THEES GORY
SIGHTS! LET US HANG
HEEM EENSTEAD!

OH, VER!
WELL, YOU
BEEG ZISSY!

SIESTA, TAKE
YOUR LAST
RIDE ON THE
HORSE YOU
SWIPE HO, HO,
HO-HO HO...

SEÑORES,
A MEELION
TIMES I TELL
YOU I ONLY
FIND HEEM!

STAND BACK!
HERE WE GO!

GROAN..

WILL THIS BE THE END OF POOR
SIESTA?? OF COURSE NOT... I'VE GOT
TO EAT, DON'T I?? NEXT MONTH'S
STORY'S A CORKER! BE SEEN' YA!

the Roosevelt family. He would shove this under the nose of a woman and in a sweet voice would ask: "Please show me which one is Teddy Jr. because I can't read English."

While the victim was occupying or "stalling" herself with the picture the sweet child would annex her purse and valuables. He was not a dealer in trifles. Expensive pearl necklaces, sometimes worth in the hundreds of thousands, and other rare jeweled bits were his especial meat. The first few times he was arrested he easily beat charges by posing as a prankish child. The lawyer and moll, richly dressed, would come forward and give cash bail, which would be jumped. Finally they shipped the Dubrinskys back and put the lawyer and his moll in Sing Sing.

* * *

The woman dip was Miss Bertha Kolokosk, or something like that, a Pole. She worked, rarely, as a waitress. She died the other day out West after doing much time in penitentiaries. Bertha Kolokosk was known as Fainting Bertha. She would edge up to a diamond wearing male, on street or in

hotel lobby, and promptly faint. The male would grab for her as she fell and this gave Bertha the opportunity to bite the diamond out of his ring or shirt stud.

She was a good picker, choosing diamonds worth rarely less than \$700 and sometimes she got as many as five, in different parts of the same city, in a day. When her victim recovered his composure and missed his gems, Bertha would be on her way. If a copper came too close, Bertha would swallow the evidence.

* * *

The man was Bob La Blanche, alias Whitey Bob. He was as big as a truckhorse and had a hand like a ham. He often convinced a jury of his innocence by exhibiting his hands. "How," he would ask, in an injured tone, "could I ever get such a hand in a man's pocket when it would hardly go into an apple barrel?"

The answer was that Bob did not use his whole hand. He scissored a pocket with his two big first fingers on his right hand. Whitey Bob died in the penitentiary at Toronto, a few years ago, after years of successful work as a lone dip. He pulled some of the

fastest and biggest robberies from the persons of any man known to criminal record.

Personally Bob La Blanche was as good natured as he was big in body and height. He was an inveterate practical joker. He was a comedian of the barrooms. He spent much money standing treat for the boys from the racetracks and sport places.

Once Bob met Sergt. Robert Southard, in Chicago. Sergt. Southard, a slim, trim fellow, was drill sergeant of the Denver police force. Southard was in the Windy City looking for another crook. In Big Dutch Jack's gentlemen's retreat on Randolph Street, Bob tried to make the Denver sergeant a butt for his comedy. Southard beat him half to death. Bob would have made two of Southard, but he was not in the drill-master's class as a battler. La Blanche said he never had any luck after the encounter with Southard. He went up into Canada, fell in Toronto, and died there after serving three years.

Bob was a nice fellow to know. He had a habit of handing out gratuities of tens and twenties to his acquaintances and servitors when he would be drinking around.

SNOOP M^c GOOK

THE
SOUPY SLEUTH

BY
HUBBELL



INSIDE THE TAVERN, WE FIND THREE GENTLEMEN GROUPED ABOUT A TABLE.

DAT'S DAT! WE FINALLY GOT THIS MAP FIGGERED OUT!



TOMORROW WE DIG UP DAT TREASURE, AN' SCRAM! WE'LL BE RICH!

YOU SAID IT! IT'LL BE WOITH ALL DEM GUYS WE HAD TO KNOCK OFF, TO GIT DIS MAP...
HEY! SOMEBODY'S OUTSIDE!!



HIDE DAT MAP, CURLY! DON'T LET 'EM IN, TILL I GET DIS WIG ON!



POISONALLY, TURK, I'M GETTIN' FED UP WIP YOU PERTENDIN' TO BE OUR OLD MUDDER!

OK, YOU WANT A ROOM FOR DA NIGHT, DO YA, BRIGHT EYES?



YES..ER..ER THAT IS, I D-D-DID... I T. THINK...

I'M MRS. MACREE ♪ MOTHER MACREE THEY CALL ME! ♪ DESE ARE MY TWO LITTLE BOYS!



PLEASED TO MEET YOU! (UGH!) G. CAN I GET A ROOM FOR TONIGHT?

YAH!! BEAT IT YA LUG! WE'RE TIRED OF YOU MUGS BUTTIN' IN, ALL DA TIME!



SHUT UP, SAP!! YA WANT HIM TA GIT WISE?

★GMM? G*★

YOU MUST EXUSE EGBERT! HE'S SO IMPULSIVE! THROCKMORTON, SHOW DA GENT TO DA IVORY ROOM!



♪ NIGHTIE NIGHT, YOU OLD CUTE THING! ♪



HM! G. GOOD NIGHT!



MAKE YERSELF COMFY CHUM! PLEASANT DREAMS! HE HE HE HE!

HEY! HOW ABOUT MY SUITCASE? I GOTTA CHANGE MY CLOTHES! BRING IT UP!



BOOM BOOM

GOSH! WHAT A HIDEOUS OLD LADY AN' WHAT A DUMP! STILL I SUPPOSE IT'S BETTER THAN BEING OUTSIDE!

HERE'S YOUR BAG, BUD!



HOLY SMOKE! WHAT DID THEY DO? GO THROUGH MY BAG? WHAT KIND OF A HOTEL IS THIS?



I'D B-BETTER N-NOT SAY ANYTHING ABOUT IT-- THAT OLD LADY LOOKS PRETTY TOUGH--- PROBABLY JUST MY IMAGINATION ANYWAY!



LISTEN TO HIM SNEAKING AROUND UP DERE! I TINK I'LL GO UP AN' BUMP HIM OFF, HAMMERHEAD! SUPPOSIN' HE FINDS DA BODIES?

HE WON'T FIND 'EM! QUIT WORRY-IN'! DIS JOINT NEEDS A BOARDER TO MAKE IT LOOK AUTHENTIC!



SPOOKY OLD PLACE! ALL IT NEEDS IS A FEW CORPSES! HA HA HA HA HA HA HA

CORPSES?



GULP! WH-WHAT'S THE MATTER? DID I SAY SOMETHING WRONG???



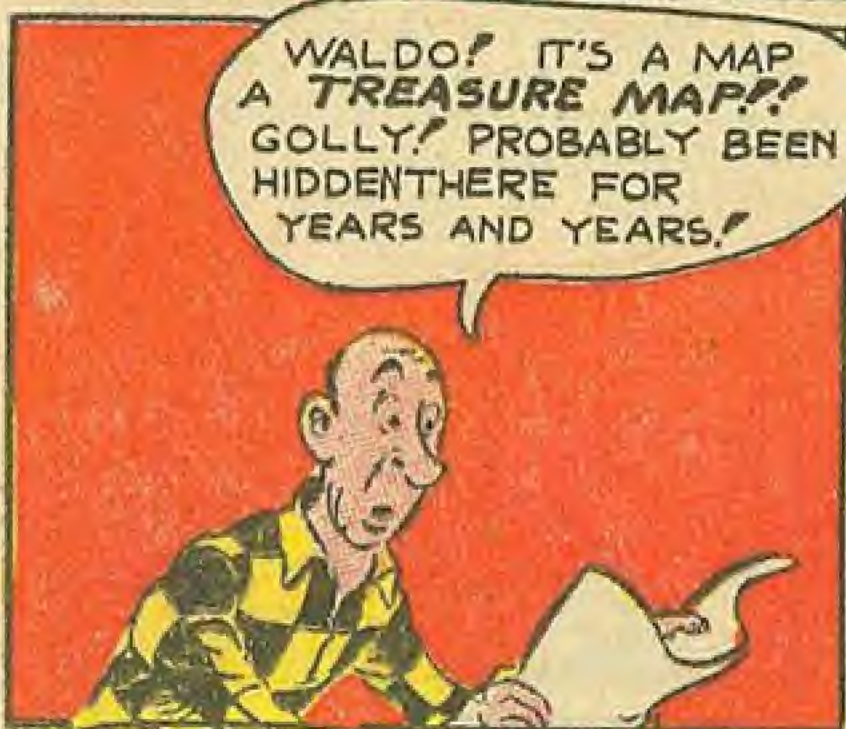
PARDON US DEARIE! ME AND THE CHILDREN IS GONNA HAVE A LITTLE TALK!

HEH HEH! NOT AT ALL! GULP! G-GO RIGHT AHEAD!



HMM! SOMETHING FISHY IS GOING ON HERE OR MY NAME AIN'T SNOOPMCGOOK

?



WALDO! IT'S A MAP
A **TREASURE MAP!**
GOLLY! PROBABLY BEEN
HIDDEN THERE FOR
YEARS AND YEARS!



NOW WE CAN HAVE
A NICE LONG TALK, CUTIE!
WAS DAT YOU WHAT
HOLLERED?



GULP! N-NO
IT MUSTA BEEN
THE WIND!



ER... I'M KINDA
TIRED! -- I THINK
I'LL GO TO
BED!

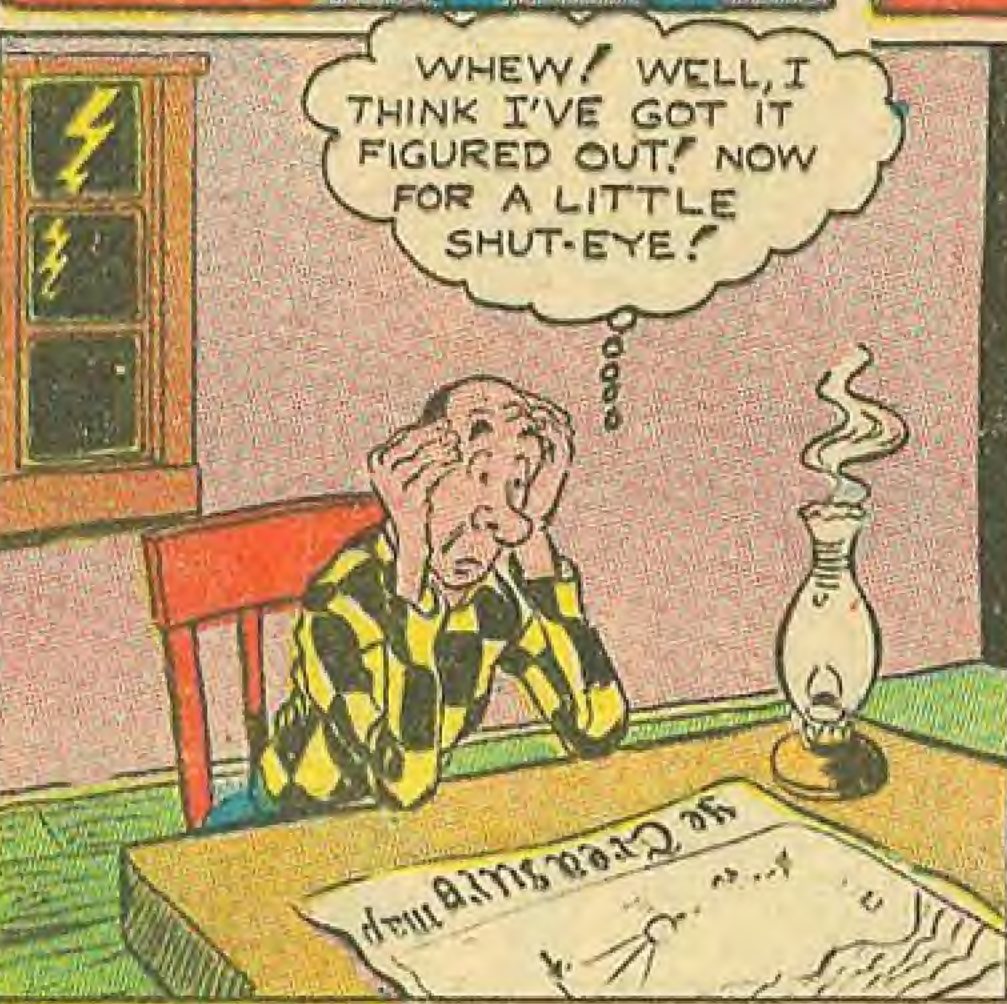
OH!
MUST YOU?



YOU LOOK A
LITTLE PEAKED
AT DAT! CAN I HELP
YOU UP DA STAIRS?



OH! NO!
NO NO!
I'M ALL RIGHT!



WHEW! WELL, I
THINK I'VE GOT IT
FIGURED OUT! NOW
FOR A LITTLE
SHUT-EYE!



I'LL FOLLOW IT UP
IN THE MORNING!
WHOOEE! AM
I SLEEPY!

DOWNSTAIRS A STEALTHILY FIGURE
CREEPS TOWARD THE FIREPLACE —

I SHOULD FOOL AROUND WID
DAT *!!?@ HAMMERHEAD. I'LL
BLOW OUTA HERE AND HAVE THE
TREASURE MYSELF!



CRIPES!!
SOMEBODY
CROOKED DA
MAP!



AN' I KNOW WHO!
HAH! DAT
LONGNOSED JOIK
UPSTAIRS!



NOW WHERE
IS HE GOT IT
HID AT?



NUTS! I'VE SOICED
DA WHOLE ROOM!
IT MUST BE HERE
SOMEWHERE'S!



MAYBE IT'S
UNDER DA BED!



WHAT
TH....??

FINALLY THE
STORM SUB-
SIDES AND
MORNING GILDS
THE DRIPPING
HILLS.....



OOH! MY BACK!
WHAT A BED! I
HARDLY CLOSED
MY EYES
ALL NIGHT!

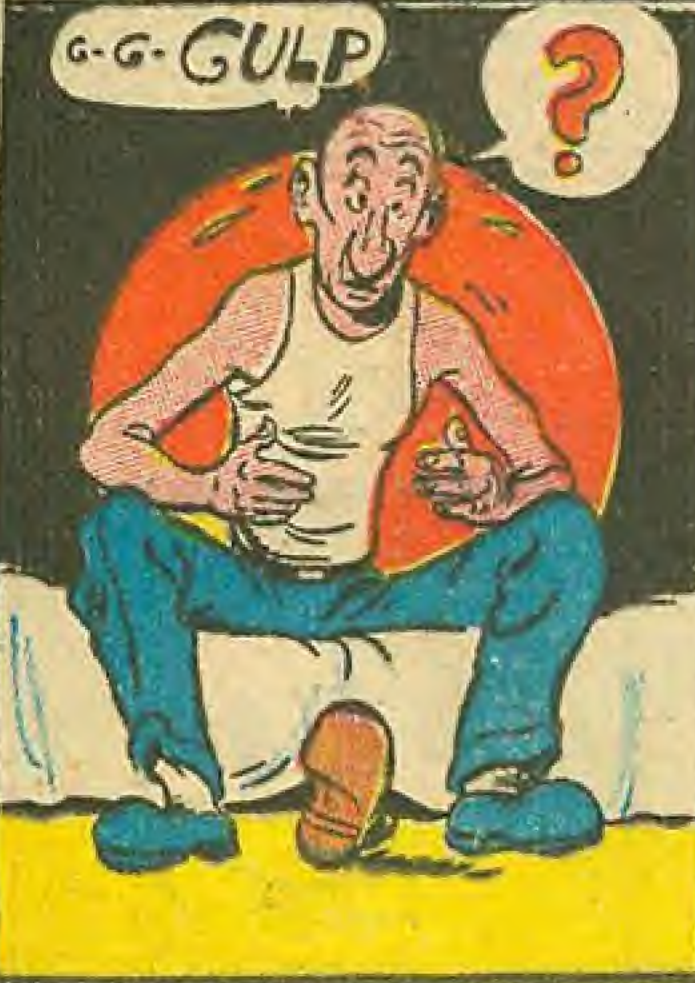


WONDER IF I
CAN GET ANY
FOOD IN THIS
DUMP... THAT
AIN'T GOT POISON
IN IT!



G-G-GULP

?



DOWNSTAIRS....

WHAT!!

DA MAP!
IT'S GONE!
IT AIN'T
HERE!



RIGHT!

C'MON WE KNOW
WHO DA SKUNK IS!
HE WON'T GET
AWAY WID DIS!



IT LOOKS AS THOUGH THE ONLY
FOOD IN THE PLACE IS THE SOUP
THAT SNOOP IS IN! DON'T MISS
THE NEXT ISSUE FOR THE
STARTLING CLIMAX OF THIS
THRILLING STORY!!!

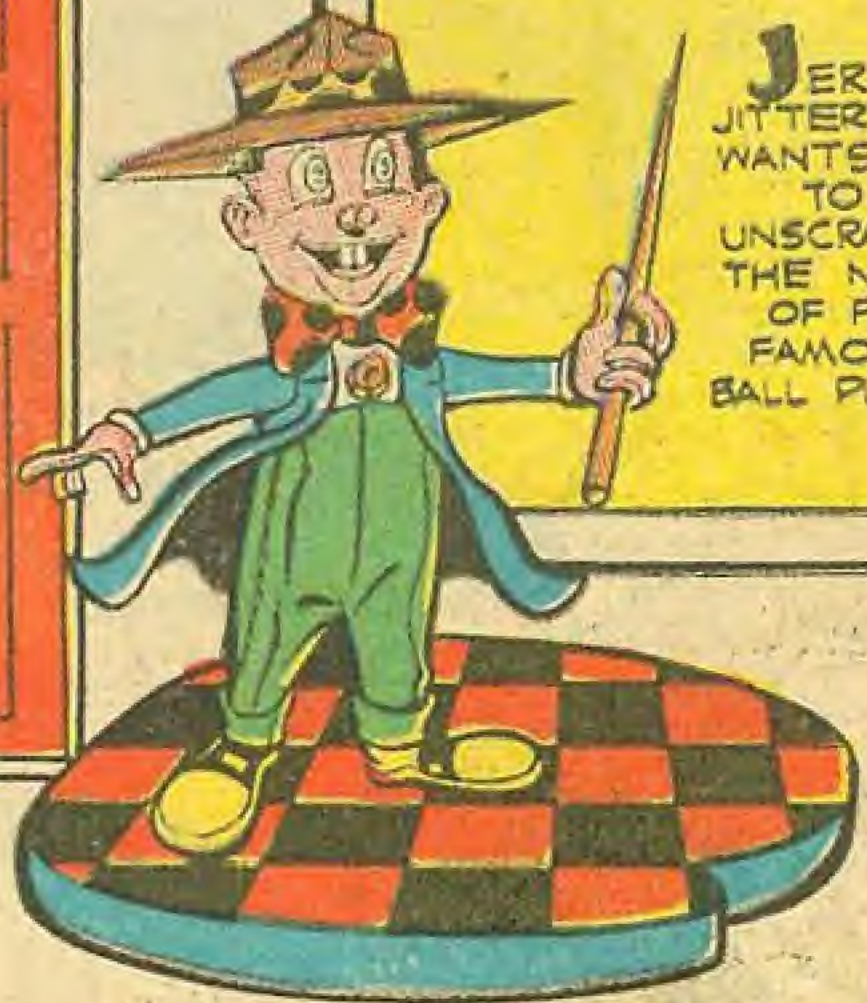
TOP NOTCH LAUGH FUN PAGE

WEE WILLIE
RABBIT HAS TRAVELLED
THE MAZE AND
REACHED THE CARROT.
CAN YOU?



1. UEBLBHL
2. ERISE
3. LKREAW.
4. TAYWT

JERRY
JITTERBUG
WANTS YOU
TO
UNSCRAMBLE
THE NAMES
OF FOUR
FAMOUS
BALL PLAYERS...



YOU CAN HELP THE ELF CATCH
THE APPLE! ALL THAT YOU HAVE
TO DO IS KEEP LOOKING AT THE
ELF'S HAND, AND RAISE THE
MAGAZINE UNTIL IT TOUCHES
THE TIP OF YOUR NOSE!!

**DRAW
ME!**



GLOOMY GUS

by
"RED"
HOLMDALE
STORY BY
"KEAN"

THE HOMELESS GHOST

AND HIS ANGELIC PAL, GABBY!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH YOU, GUS-- YOU CAN'T GET INTO A BODY THAT KEEPS YOU OUT OF MISCHIEF!

OH SAY A PRAYER FOR GLOOMY GUS-- UNLUCKIER THAN MOST! HE DIED BEFORE HIS TIME WAS UP, SO NOW HE'S A HOMELESS GHOST!

IT AIN'T HIS FAULT, HONEST, ST. PETE! TROUBLE JUST COMES EASY TO HIM!

I SENT YOU DOWN TO KEEP GLOOMY OUT OF TROUBLE GABBY!

THIS TIME YOU'RE GOING TO DO SOME GOOD ON EARTH! GO DOWN TO THE CORNER NEAR 1680 OCEAN AVENUE AND WAIT!

WAIT FOR WHAT--?

WONDER WHAT ST. PETE MEANT?

WHATEVER IT IS, THIS TIME I'LL SEE, YOU DON'T GET INTO TROUBLE!



WELL, HERE WE ARE, GUS! MAYBE THERE'S A BODY FOR ME, TOO!

YEAH GABBY! BUT I DON'T SEE ANY ONE AROUND TO MEET US!



ST. PETE TOLD US TO WAIT HERE ON THE CORNER, BUT I DON'T SEE HOW IT'S GOIN' TO DO US ANY GOOD JUST WAITING HERE!

LOOK, SOLDIERS!



FOR PETE'S SAKE! LOOK OUT FOR THAT BLACK CAT!



JEEPERS CREEPERS!



TWO BODIES --- MADE TO ORDER FOR US --- B-BUT THEY'RE SOLDIERS! G--GOSH!

WE'S GLAZIER SHOP

I'M CLASSIFIED 4-F IN HEAVEN, THESE WOULDN'T BE FOR US!



OKAY BUB YOU'RE NEXT! CLIMB IN!

CLIMB INTO WHAT? THE JEEP?

NO, OUR BODIES, DOPE!



I STILL THINK THIS IS A MISTAKE, GUS! WHY, WE'RE LIABLE TO BE SHOT OR SOMETHIN'!

WHERE TO GABBY?

LET'S BE ON OUR WAY, JOE! WE GOTTA GET MEASURED FOR A HALO AND WINGS!

WE'D BETTER REPORT
TO THE GENERAL!
THAT'S WHAT THEY
ALWAYS DO IN
THE ARMY!



LATER--GUS 'N GABBY FINALLY
ARRIVE AT GENERAL HEAD-
QUARTERS!



THERE IT IS!
STEP ON THE
BRAKE, GUS!

IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU BOYS SHOWED
UP! IF IT WASN'T FOR THE FACT
THAT I NEED YOU--I'D HAVE YOU
PUT IN THE
GUARDHOUSE!



THE COLONEL'S DAUGHTER
IS ARRIVING ON THE 4:22!
BRING HER HERE! I DON'T
KNOW WHAT SHE LOOKS
LIKE BUT THE COLONEL
CALLS HER
'BABY'!



DO YOU THINK WE
OUGHT TO BE
SNOOPING 'ROUND
THE COLONEL'S OFFICE?

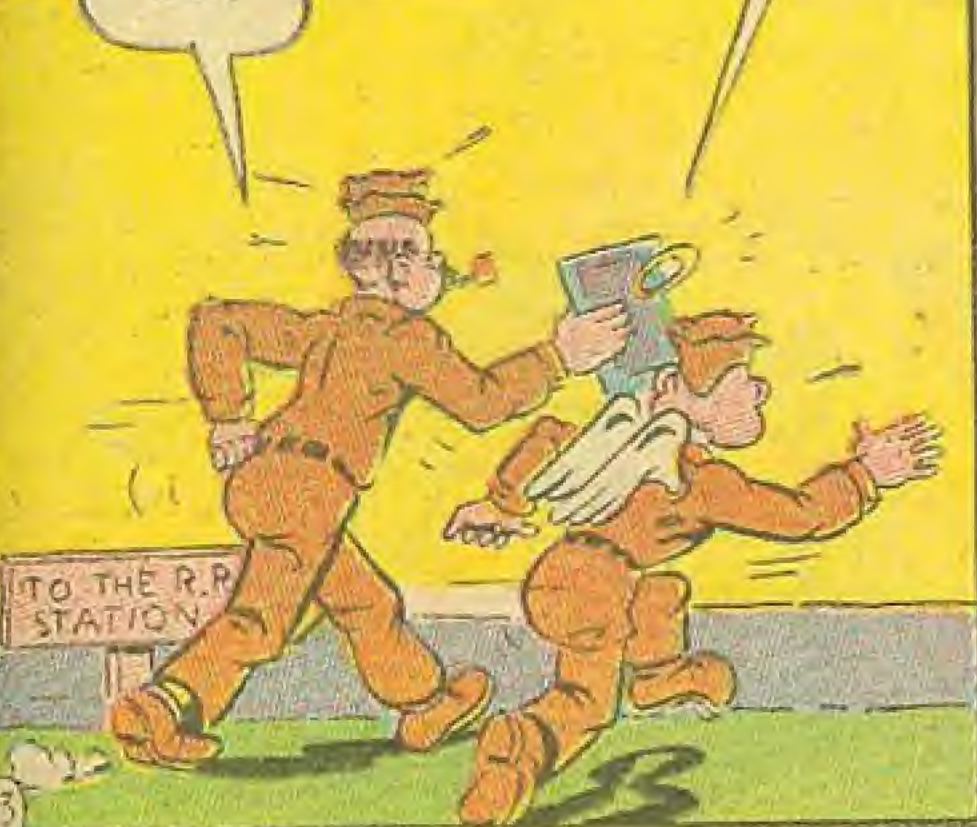


WE GOTTA
FIND OUT WHAT
HIS BABY
LOOKS LIKE,
GABBY!

HERE--THIS
MUST BE HER!
GEE I NEVER
HANDLED A
BABY BEFORE!

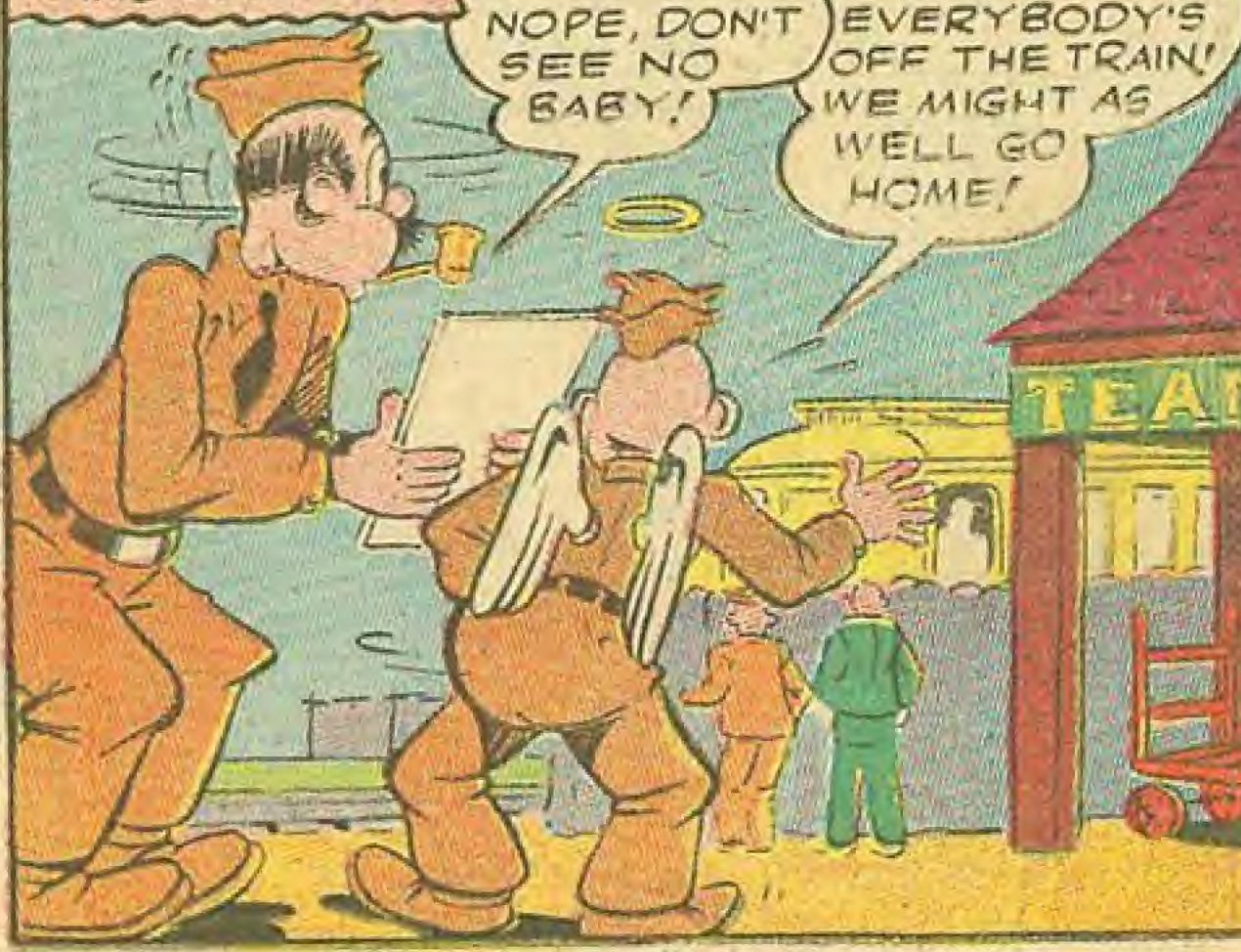


CALLING FOR BABIES,
HECK--- THIS ARMY
LIFE ISN'T WHAT IT'S
CRACKED UP TO
BE!



HURRY,
UP, GUS!

GUS AND GABBY ARRIVE AND WAIT, AND WAIT--



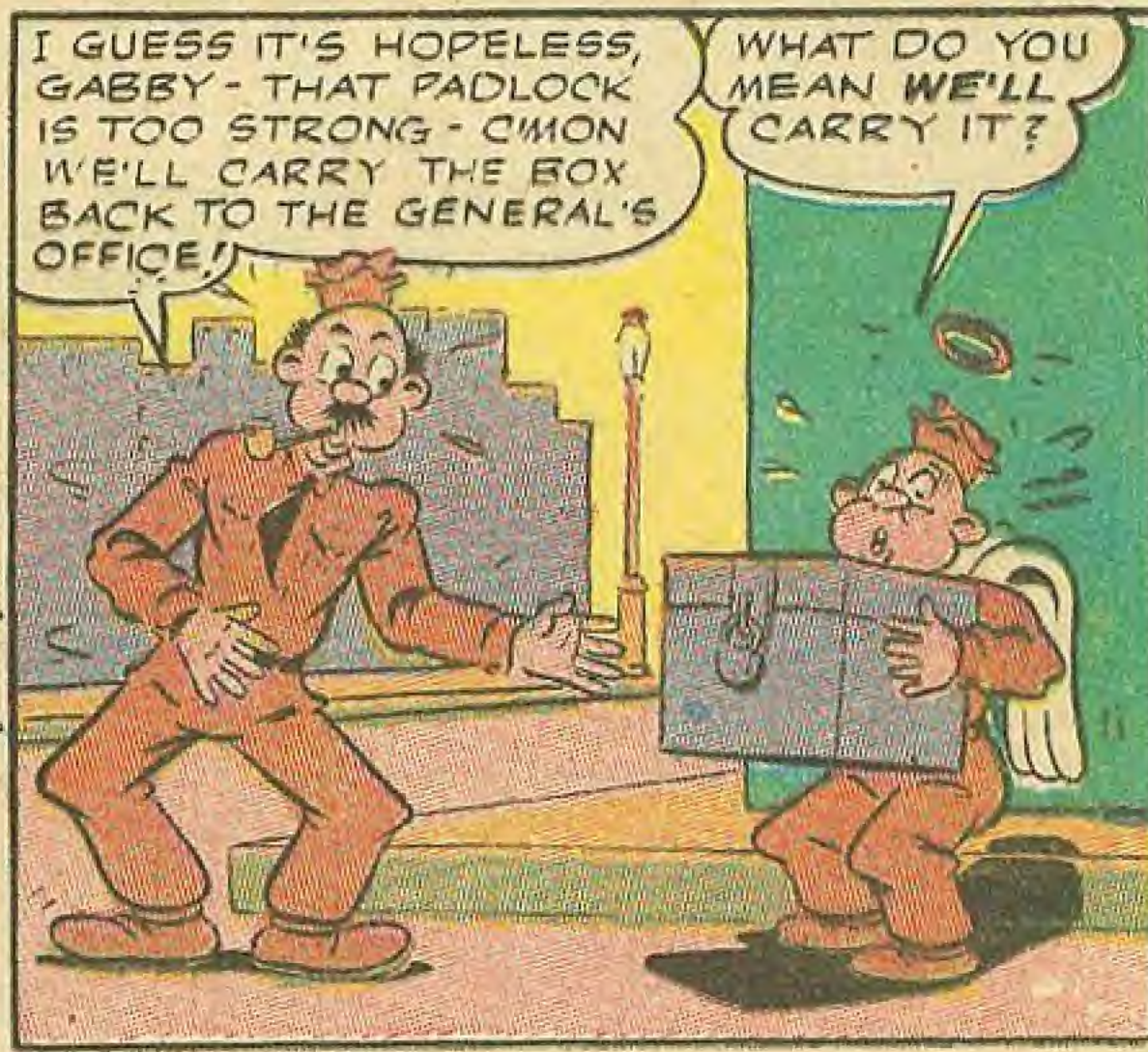
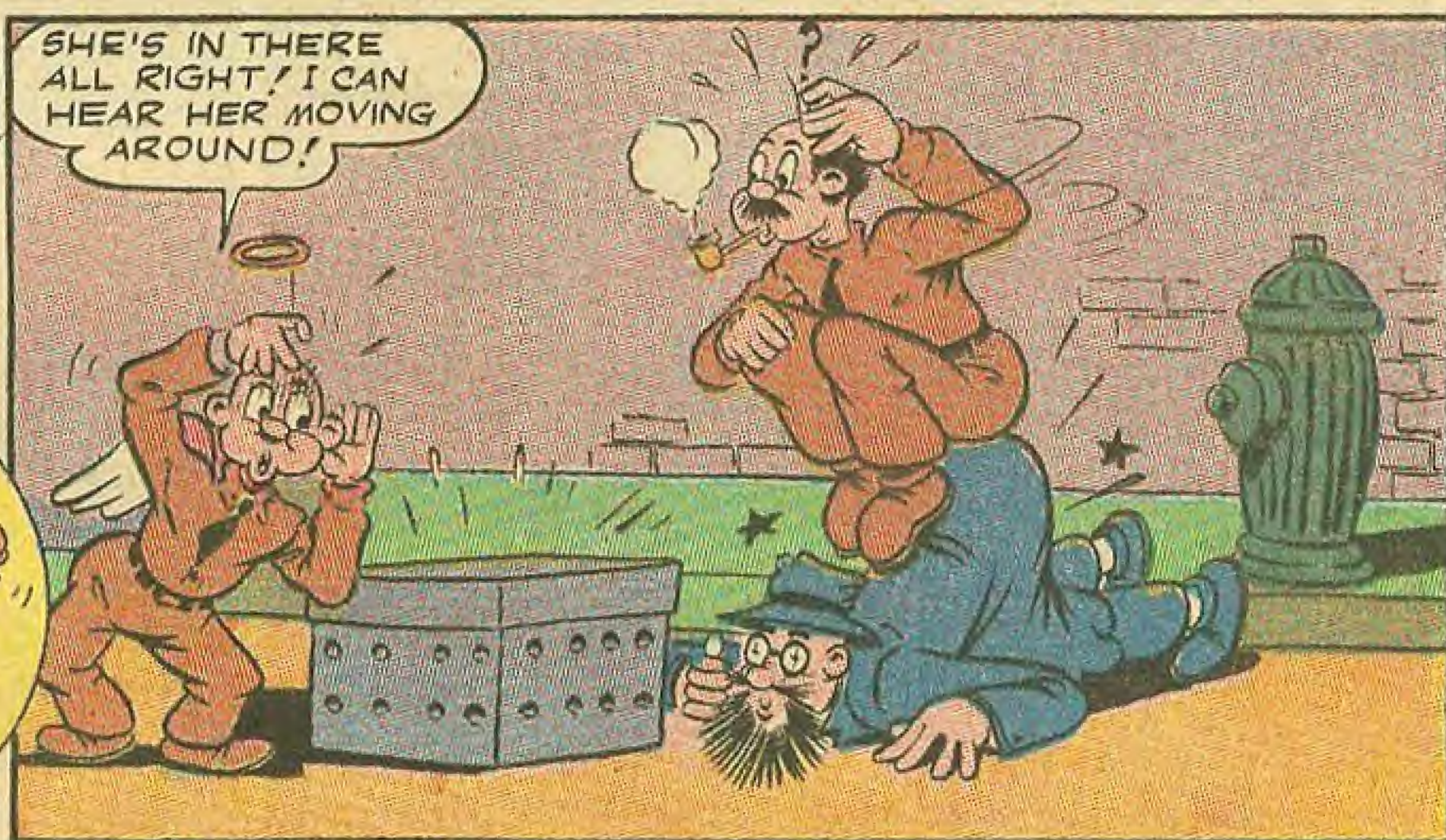
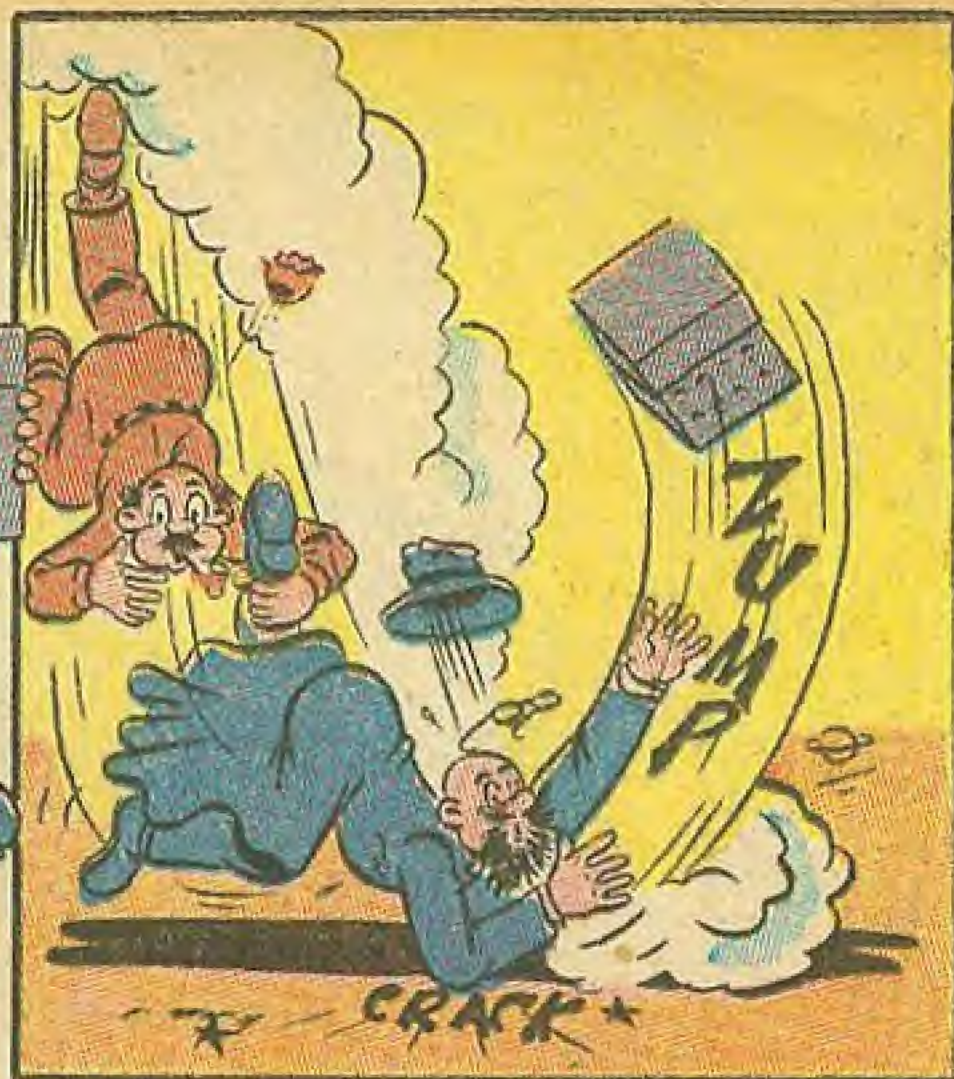
NOPE, DON'T
SEE NO
BABY!

EVERYBODY'S
OFF THE TRAIN!
WE MIGHT AS
WELL GO
HOME!

TO THE R.P.
STATION

TEAN







LATER-- HERE'S THE BABY, YOUR HONOR! I MEAN GENERAL!

WE RESCUED HER FROM KIDNAPPERS!

DON'T BE RIDICULOUS! THE COLONEL'S DAUGHTER IS RIGHT HERE!



I GOT TIRED OF CHASING YOU SILLY BOYS, AND FINALLY GOT TO THE CAMP BY MYSELF!



B-BUT THIS PICTURE?



DOPE! THAT WAS TAKEN TWENTY YEARS AGO!

HEY GENERAL I GOT THE BOX OPEN! THE PADLOCK JUST FELL OFF!



WHAT BOX?-- GET THAT THING OUT OF HERE BEFORE I LOSE MY TEMPER!



G-GOSH! IT IS A BABY--

A BABY SKUNK!

PROFESSOR STEINBOCK'S PET SKUNK VIOLET



LATER-- HECK! I WISH THIS TOBACCO WERE STRONGER-- I CAN STILL SMELL MYSELF, GABBY!

SO CAN I AND CONFIDENTIALLY GUS, YOU----



HOLY HALOS! HOW'M I GONNA EXPLAIN THIS TO ST PETE ??? I WUZ S'POSED TO KEEP GLOOMY GUS OUTA TROUBLE -- AND NOW LOOK, WHERE HE IS!!!

PEP COMICS

SCORES ANOTHER

BULLSEYE

WITH

Lil Chief Bugaboo



LIL CHIEF BUGABOO APPEARS FOR THE FIRST TIME IN JULY PEP

by
"RED"
HOLMDALE
-AND-
JANICE
VALLEAU

I'VE NEVER
BEEN A MANNEQUIN
MODEL, BUT I'M
SURE I COULD
DO IT!

AH! YOU ARE MAGNIFICENT!
YOU ARE ZEE PERFECT TYPE!
WEETH YOU AS A MODEL I WEEL
MAKE THE GREATEST CREATION-
THE MASTERPIECE! THE
AMERICAN NO.1 DUMMY!

IT'S SUZIE AGAIN! SUZIE
THE GAL WHO JUST CAN'T
KEEP A JOB! SHE NEVER
DOES ANYTHING WRONG
INTENTIONALLY. BUT SOME-
HOW SUZIE AND TROUBLE
GO HAND IN HAND---AFTER
HER JOB AS KENNEL MAID,
SUZIE LOOKED IN THE
WANT AD COLUMNS AND
FOUND THIS AD-----

WANTED:-

A TALL ATTRACTIVE
GIRL TO MODEL FOR DE-
SIGNER OF SHOW-ROOM
MANNEQUINS. APPLY:-
MARCEL FRANCOIS 12 E. 8 ST.

WE FIND SUZIE AT MARCEL
APPLYING FOR THE JOB!

AND SO SUZIE GETS THE JOB!

THERE I PUT
THE PLASTER ALL
AROUND. BE YEREE
STILL UNTIL EET
HARDENS. NOW-
I WEEL MAKE A
MODEL OF YOUR
HEAD!

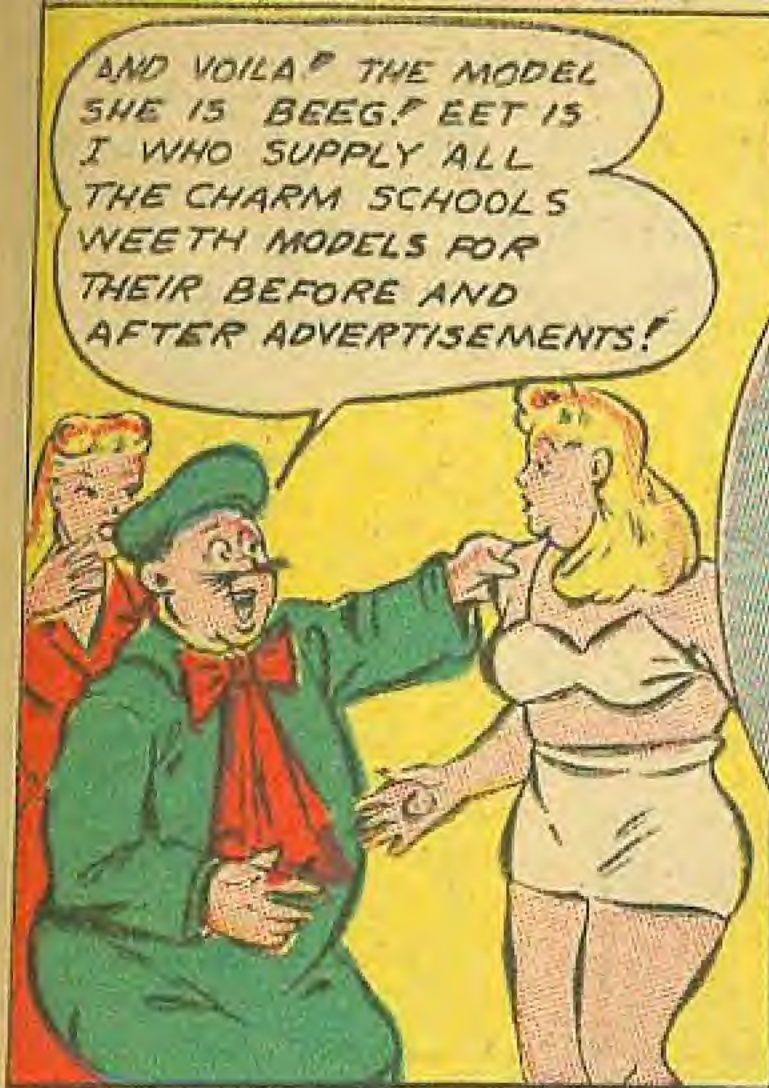
O DEAR!
I DON'T
THINK I'M
GOING TO
LIKE THIS
JOB!

YOU SEE? EET IS ZEE
PERFECT LIKENESS! WAIT
TIL I PUT EET TOGETHER!
THE MANNEQUINS I MAKE
ARE YEREE SPECIAL!
I SHOW YOU IN
A MINUTE!

HEY, MARCEL!
WHAT ON EARTH
ARE YOU
DOING?

EET IS
SIMPLE! I
BLOW THE AIR
INSIDE-- LIKE THIS--
(PUFF-PUFF)





AND VOILA! THE MODEL SHE IS BEEG! EET IS I WHO SUPPLY ALL THE CHARM SCHOOLS WEETH MODELS FOR THEIR BEFORE AND AFTER ADVERTISEMENTS!



THAT'S AWFULLY CLEVER MARCEL-- BUT PLEASE LET THE AIR OUT! I'D RATHER NOT SEE HOW I'D LOOK OVERWEIGHT! IT GIVES ME THE WILLYS!

OF COURSE SUZIE... FOR YOU I ---- OH THE PHONE!

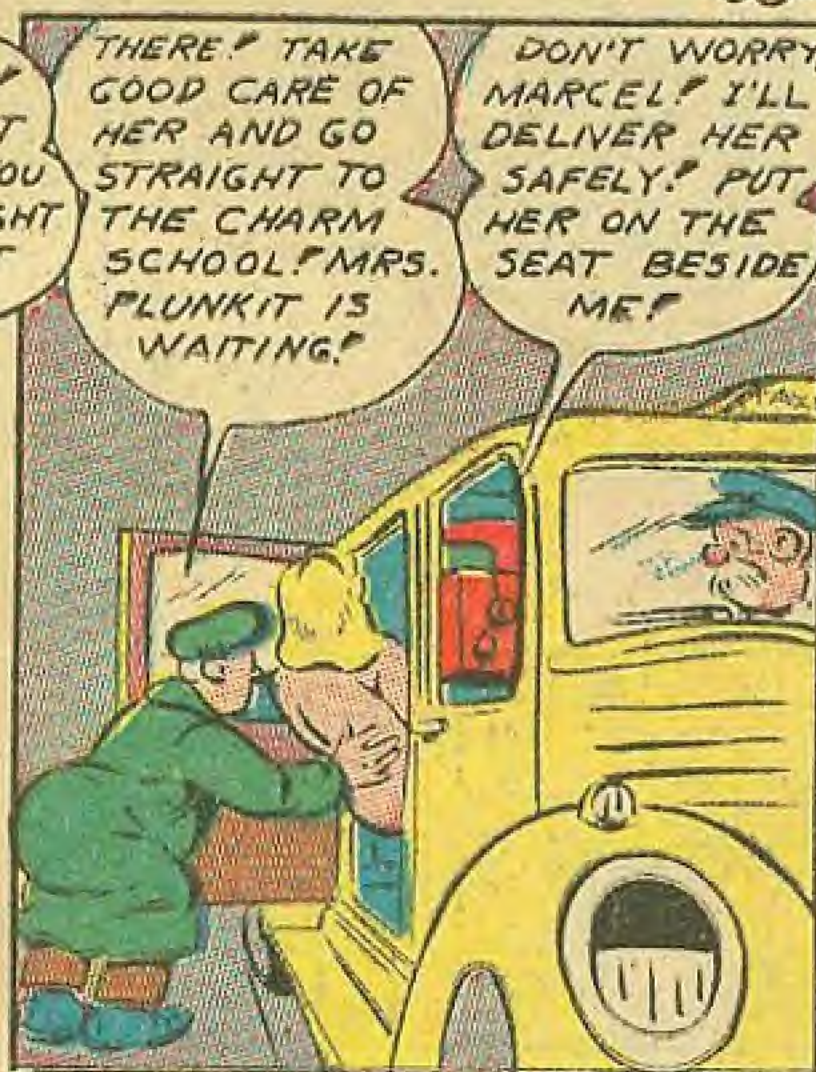


YES, EET IS MARCEL! YOU WANT THE NEW MANNEQUIN? YES... YES... I WEEEL SEND IT OVER AT ONCE! EET IS A MASTERPIECE!!



SUZIE! WEEEL YOU TAKE THIS TO THE DE SWANK BEAUTY SHOPPE? EET IS A BEEG RUSH!

ALL RIGHT! BUT... DON'T YOU THINK YOU ER... UH... OUGHT TO DRESS IT FIRST?



THERE! TAKE GOOD CARE OF HER AND GO STRAIGHT TO THE CHARM SCHOOL! MRS. PLUNKIT IS WAITING!

DON'T WORRY, MARCEL! I'LL DELIVER HER SAFELY! PUT HER ON THE SEAT BESIDE ME!



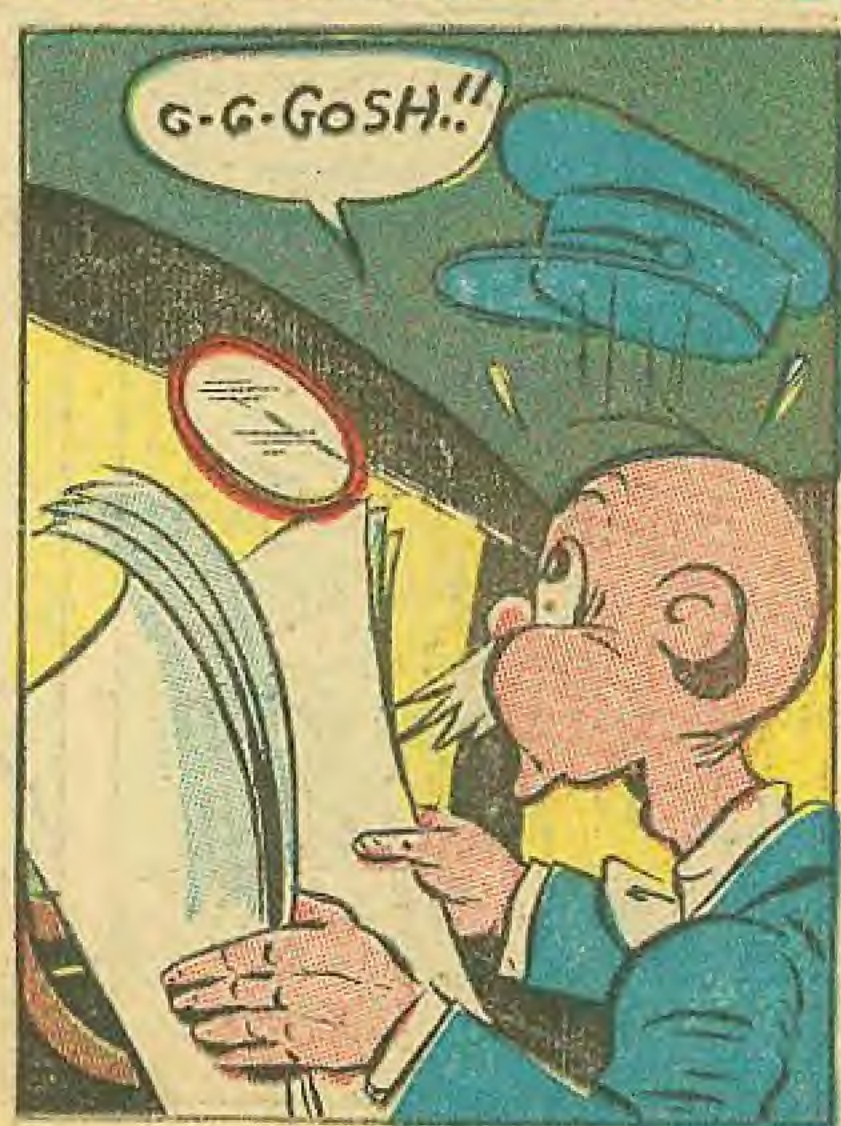
THE DE SWANK BEAUTY SHOPPE... 1235 FIFTH AVE, DRIVER!



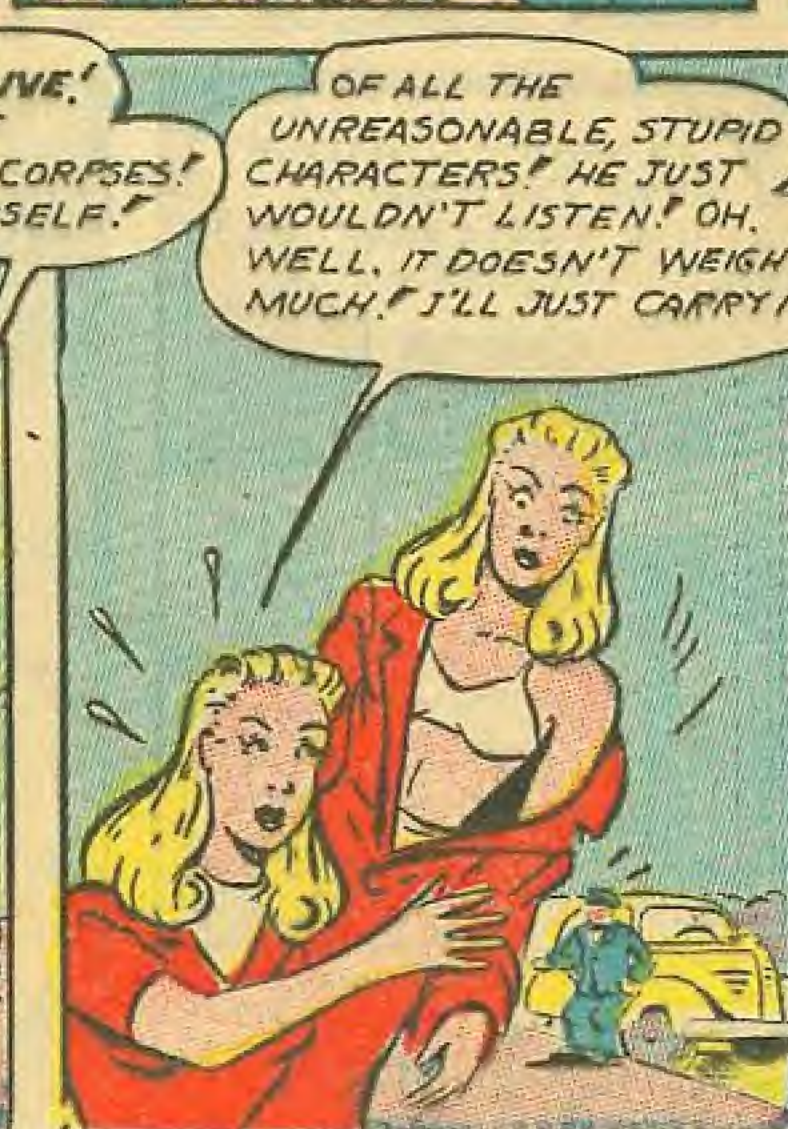
OH DRIVER! WOULD YOU MIND STOPPING? I SEE SOMETHING IN LACEY'S WINDOW THAT I SIMPLY MUST BUY! I'LL BE RIGHT OUT!



HO HUM!... I WONDER WHAT THEY GOT AT THE BURLESQUE THIS WEEK?



G-G-GOSH!!





HELLO, WOULD YOU MIND OPENING THE DOOR, SO THAT I CAN GO IN?

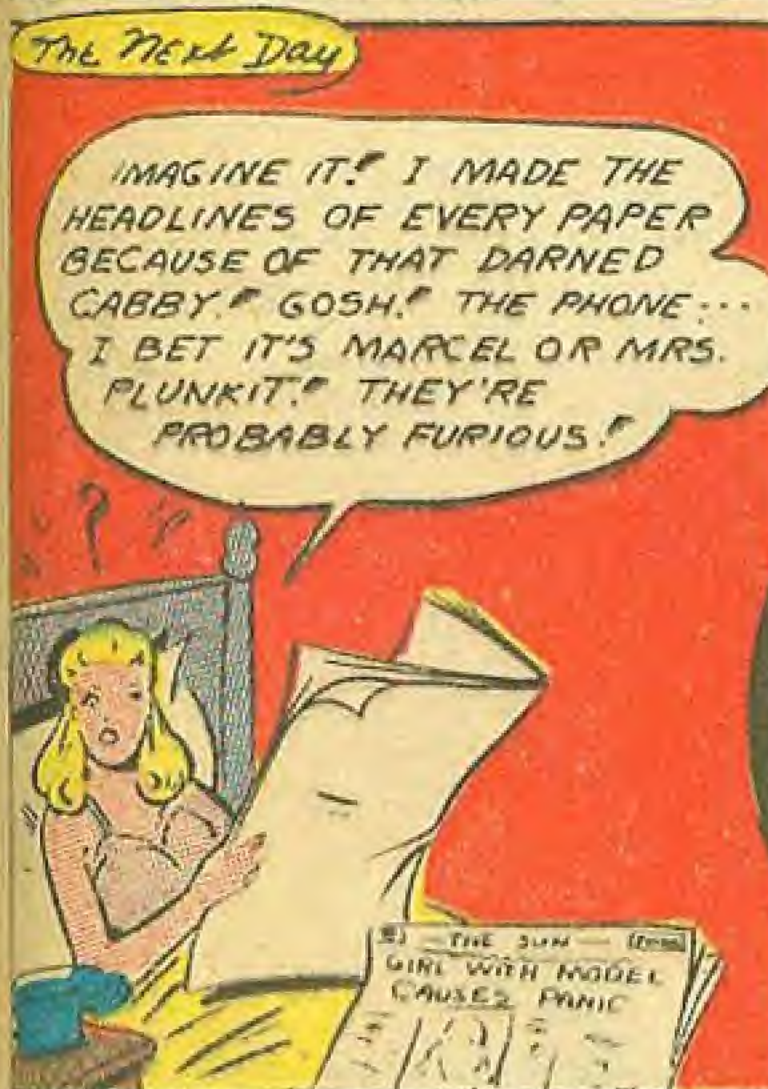
SORRY LADY, BUT YOU CAN'T BRING YOUR FRIEND IN IN THAT CONDITION. THIS IS A RESPECTABLE SHOP.



I'VE HAD ENOUGH TROUBLE WITH THIS! TAKE HER AND GIVE HER TO MRS. PLUNKIT WITH MY COMPLIMENTS!



LADY! PULLEEZE.... YOU CAN'T... WHAT IN... THIS IS ONLY A DUMMY! HEY, YOU PHOTOGRAPHERS! STOP SNAPPIN' MY PICTURE-- I'D NEVER BE ABLE TO CONVINCE MY WIFE!



The Next Day

IMAGINE IT! I MADE THE HEADLINES OF EVERY PAPER BECAUSE OF THAT DARNED CABBY! GOSH! THE PHONE... I BET IT'S MARCEL OR MRS. PLUNKIT! THEY'RE PROBABLY FURIOUS!

THE SUN - (Local)
GIRL WITH MODEL CAUSES PANIC

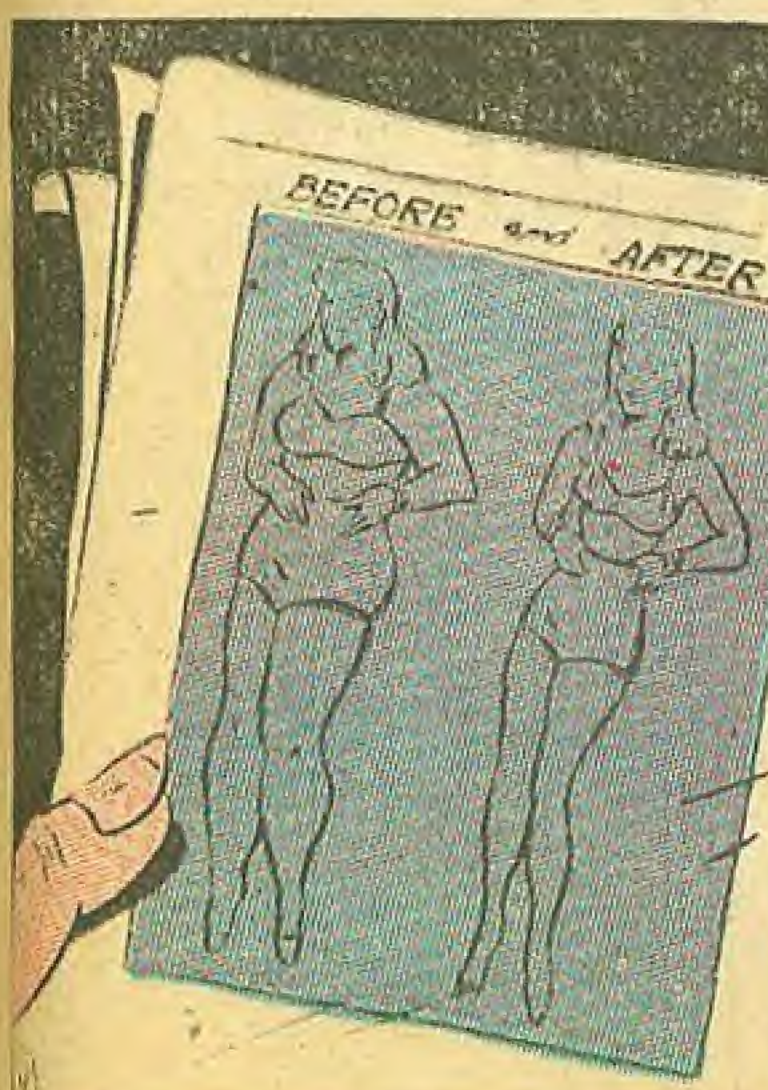


SUZIE.... THIS IS THE DE SWANK BEAUTY SHOPPE! YOU DEAR! YOU GOT US SUCH WONDERFUL PUBLICITY... I WANT YOU TO COME AND BE AN INSTRUCTOR! HURRY RIGHT OVER!

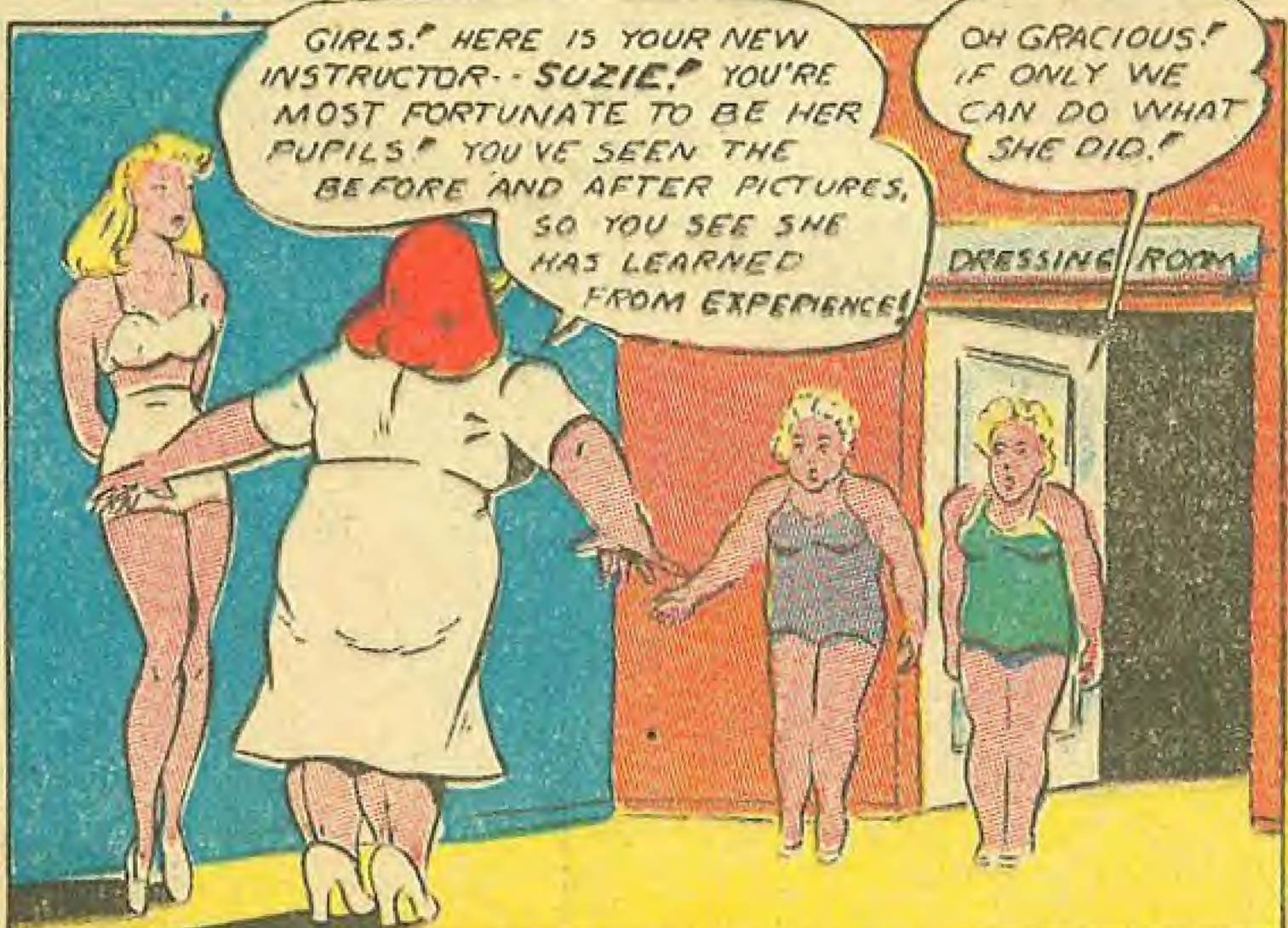


JUST WAIT TIL YOU SEE! WE HAD THE ADS RUN RIGHT OFF AS SOON AS WE COULD! YOU'LL BE MY MOST POPULAR INSTRUCTOR!

WELL, IT'S AWFULLY NICE OF YOU TO GIVE ME THE JOB! OF COURSE I NEVER INSTRUCTED BUT IT SOUNDS EASY!



BEFORE and AFTER



GIRLS! HERE IS YOUR NEW INSTRUCTOR - SUZIE! YOU'RE MOST FORTUNATE TO BE HER PUPILS! YOU'VE SEEN THE BEFORE AND AFTER PICTURES, SO YOU SEE SHE HAS LEARNED FROM EXPERIENCE!

OH GRACIOUS! IF ONLY WE CAN DO WHAT SHE DID!

DRESSING ROOM



THIS IS A WONDERFUL EXERCISE FOR POSTURE!

AT LAST I'VE FOUND A USE FOR THAT BOOK FROM MY HUSBAND! IS THIS RIGHT, SUZIE?



OH YES, MRS. HERBERT! IT'S JUST FINE! OOOOPS--MY BOOK!



AFTER AN HOUR OF CALISTHENICS, WE FIND SUZIE AND HER PUPILS IN THE MECHANICAL ROOM--

SUZIE, I THINK I'VE HAD ENOUGH! I CAN'T STAND ANYMORE! PLEASE, TURN THIS THING OFF!

ALL RIGHT PUPILS--I'LL TURN OFF THE SWITCH!



OH DEAR! SOMETHING IS WRONG, I CAN'T TURN IT OFF! ALL IT SEEMS TO DO IS MAKE THE MACHINES GO FASTER!



WHERE ARE YOU GOING? STOP THIS! IT KEEPS GOING FASTER AND FASTER!

DON'T WORRY, MRS. MALONE! I'M GOING TO TURN THE MACHINES OFF FROM THE OUTSIDE!



GOOD! THERE'S THE MASTER SWITCH! GOSH! I WAS AFRAID I WOULDN'T FIND IT!



THE ENTIRE CHARM SCHOOL IS IN AN UPROAR.....

HEY!

WHAT HAPPENED?

MAYBE IT'S A BLACKOUT!

I DIDN'T HEAR THE SIREN DID YOU?

WHEN PEACE IS RESTORED....

ONE MORE MISTAKE, SUZIE, AND YOU'RE FIRED! TAKE YOUR PUPILS TO THE FACIAL ROOM AND GIVE THEM BEAUTY PACKS!

YES, MRS. PLUNKIT! RIGHT AWAY!

PARDON ME! COULD YOU TELL ME WHERE THE BEAUTY CLAY IS?

YOU'LL FIND IT IN THE STOCKROOM, DOWN AT THE END OF THE HALL! IT'S IN POWDER FORM, YOU MIX IT WITH WATER!

HMM--A POWDER--THAT MUST BE IN THE BOX!

SUZIE GETS INTO THE WRONG CLOSET--

STOCK ROOM

HEY, SUZIE! LOOK WHAT YOU'RE DOING! YOU'RE NOT GOING TO USE THAT FOR A BEAUTY MASK! OH GOSH! YOU'LL BE SORRY!

THERE NOW! HOW DOES THAT FEEL, MRS. MALONE?

WHEN SIMPLE METHODS OF REMOVING THE MASK FAIL, SUZIE BECOMES DESPERATE.....

GEE! DON'T GET EXCITED! THIS MAY JAR A LITTLE, BUT I'LL GET THE MASK OFF!

STOP! HELP! MURDER! WHAT ARE YOU DOING? POLICE!!

OH, IT FEELS TERRIBLE! WHAT'S WRONG? IT'S GETTING HARD AS A ROCK! GET IT OFF! GET IT OFF!!

OH! I'M RUINED, UTTERLY RUINED! AND IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT! I'M TURNING YOU OVER TO THE POLICE!

OH DEAR! I DIDN'T MEAN TO DO ANYTHING! ALL I DID WAS...

OOO--MY FACE!

GEE LADY, I'VE HEARD OF GANGSTERS PUTTIN' GUYS IN BARRELS OF CEMENT AND THROWIN' THEM IN THE RIVER-- BUT THIS IS A NEW ONE!

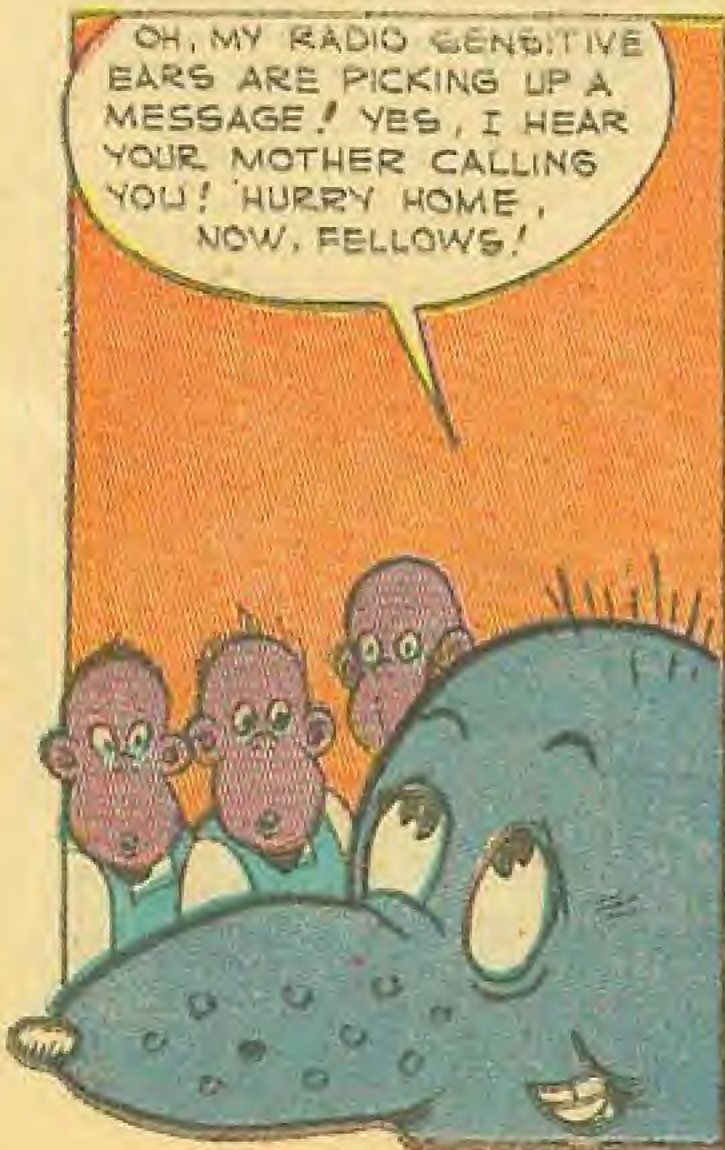
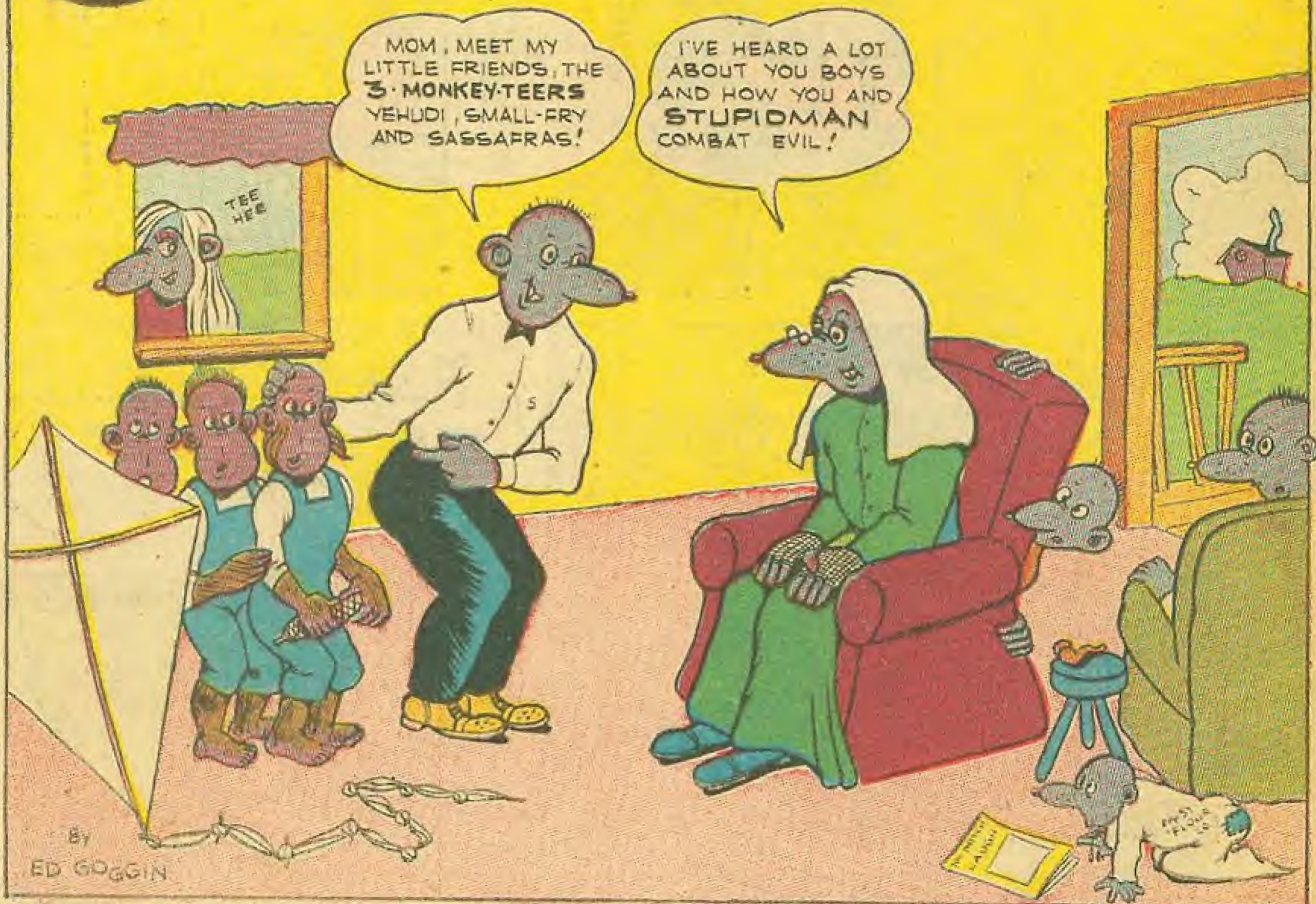
I TELL YOU IT WAS ALL A MISTAKE!

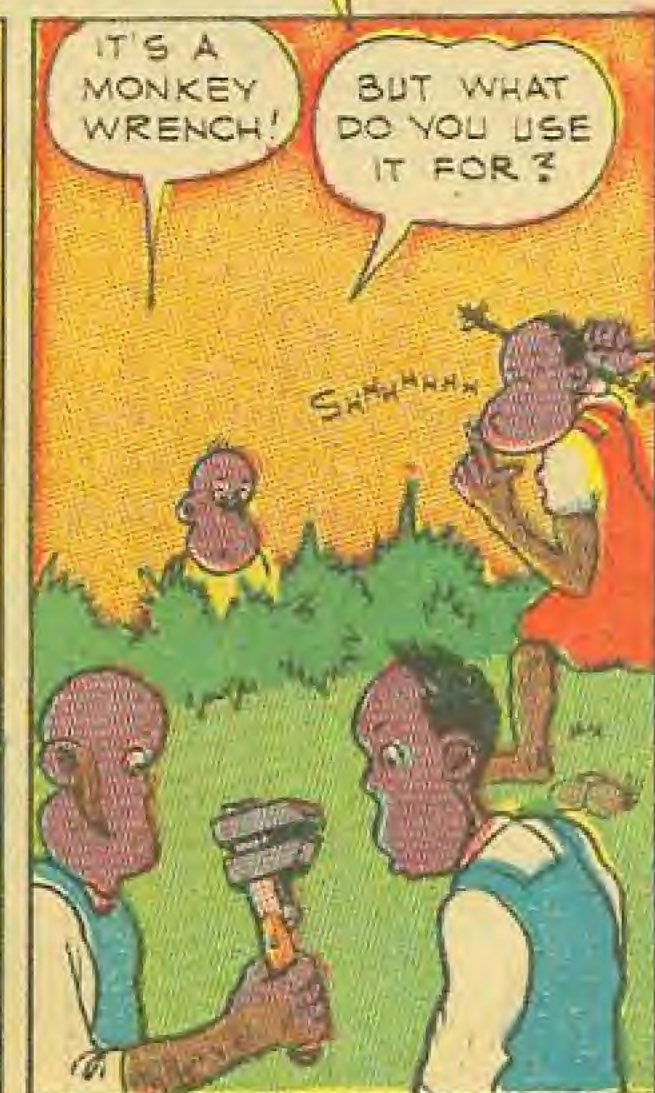
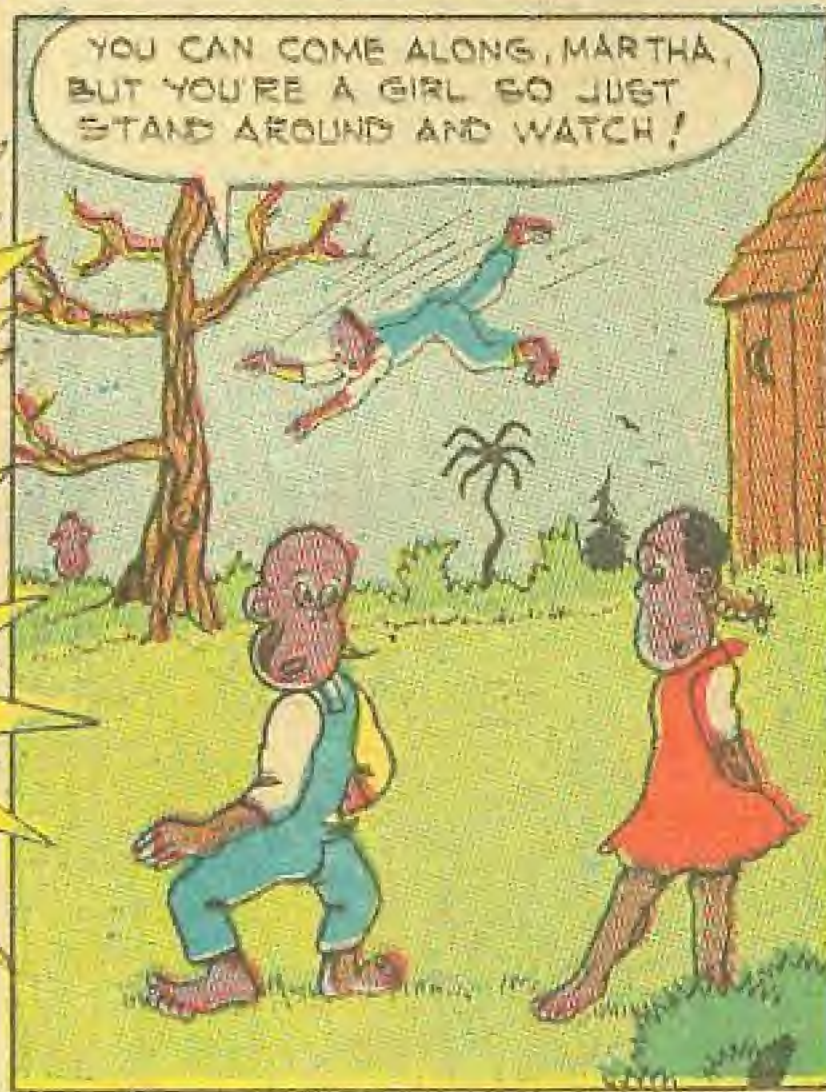
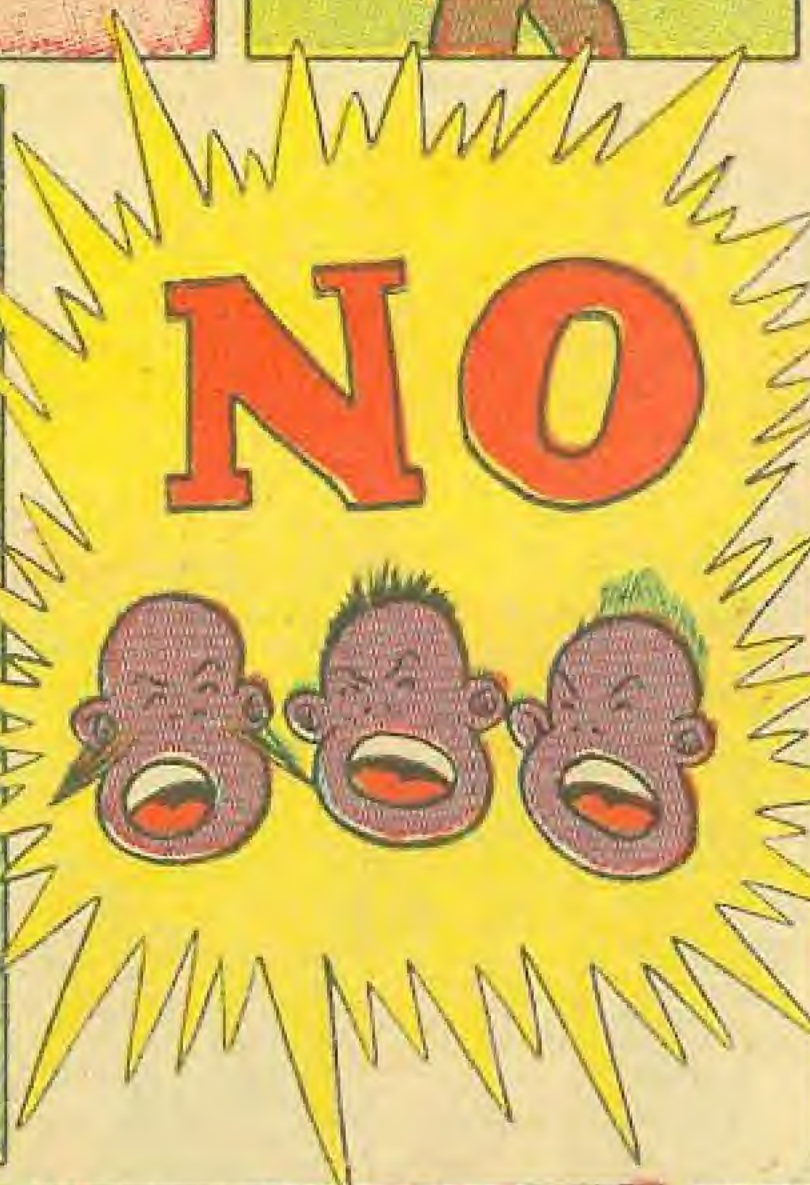
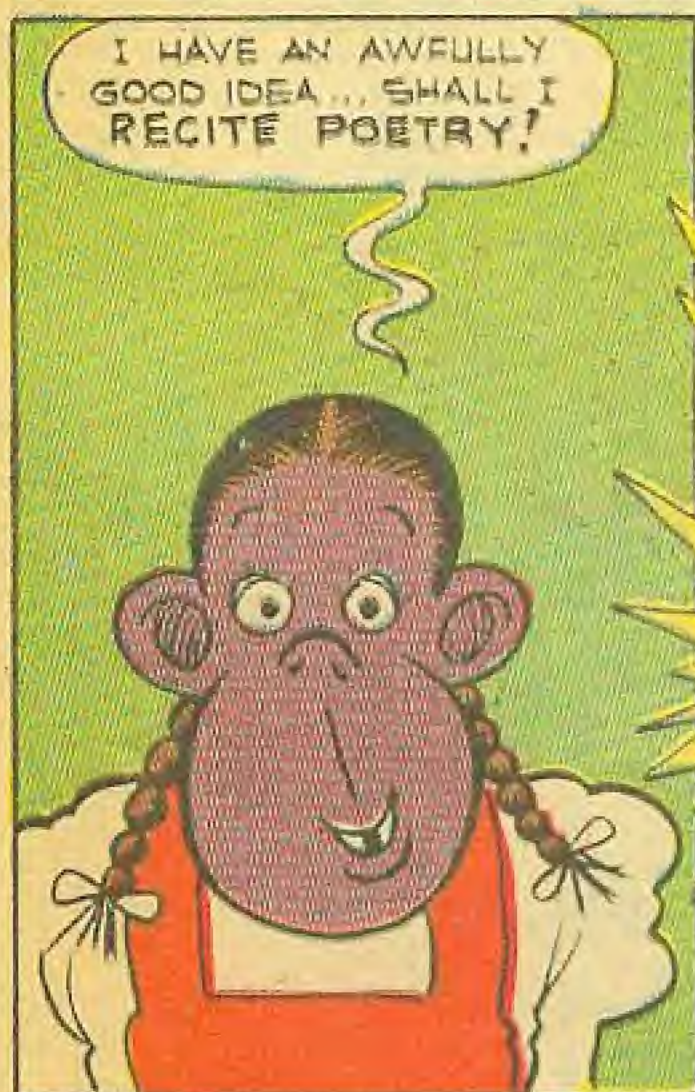
SO IT WAS A MISTAKE! BUT IF I EVER CATCH YOU WORKIN' IN A BEAUTY SHOP AGAIN-- IT'S THE CLINK FOR YOU!

POOR SUZIE!! SHE'S OUT OF A JOB AGAIN, BUT SHE WOULDN'T BE SUZIE IF SHE DIDN'T LOSE THEM. WAIT TIL YOU SEE HER IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF TOP NOTCH LAUGH COMICS-- HER NEW JOB-- WELL, THAT'S A SECRET BUT WE'LL TELL YOU THIS MUCH-- SHE'S FUNNIER THAN EVER!

DE SWANK BEAUTY

THE 3 MONKEY-TEERS

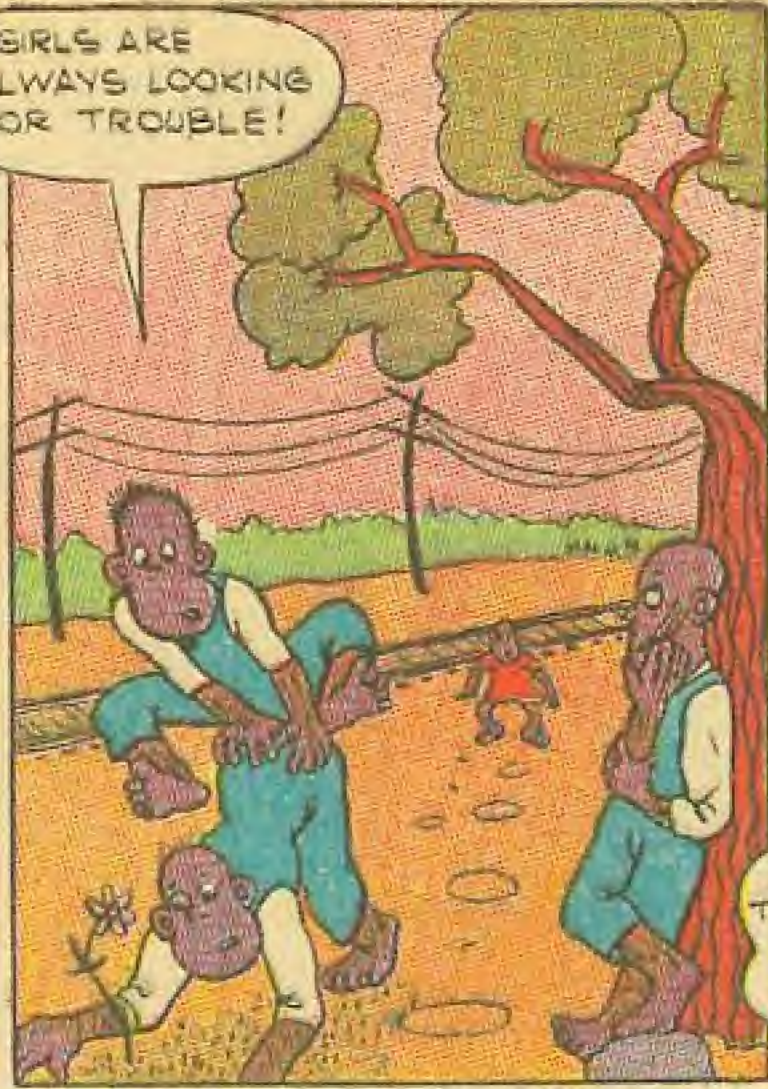






GOSH! ALL MIGHTY! SOUP IS A SLANG NAME FOR NITRO-GLYCERINE! AND WHY, I BET...

OH HUSH UP!



GIRLS ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR TROUBLE!



HEY, IRV, MOVE THE LADDER AWAY, WILL YOU? I'LL GET A GOOD GRIP ON THE BRUSH!

LET'S WATCH THESE FUNNY LOOKING PAINTERS!



ALL SET?

MOVE 'ER AWAY!

SOUP! HMMMM I THINK WE...



CRASH
OH H H H H H H H H H H

HERE COMES STUPIDMAN!



THE BRUSH MUSTA SLIPPED!

QUICK! HAVE YOU SEEN WORK-MEN CARRYING LUNCH PAILS? YOU DID?.. WHERE?..



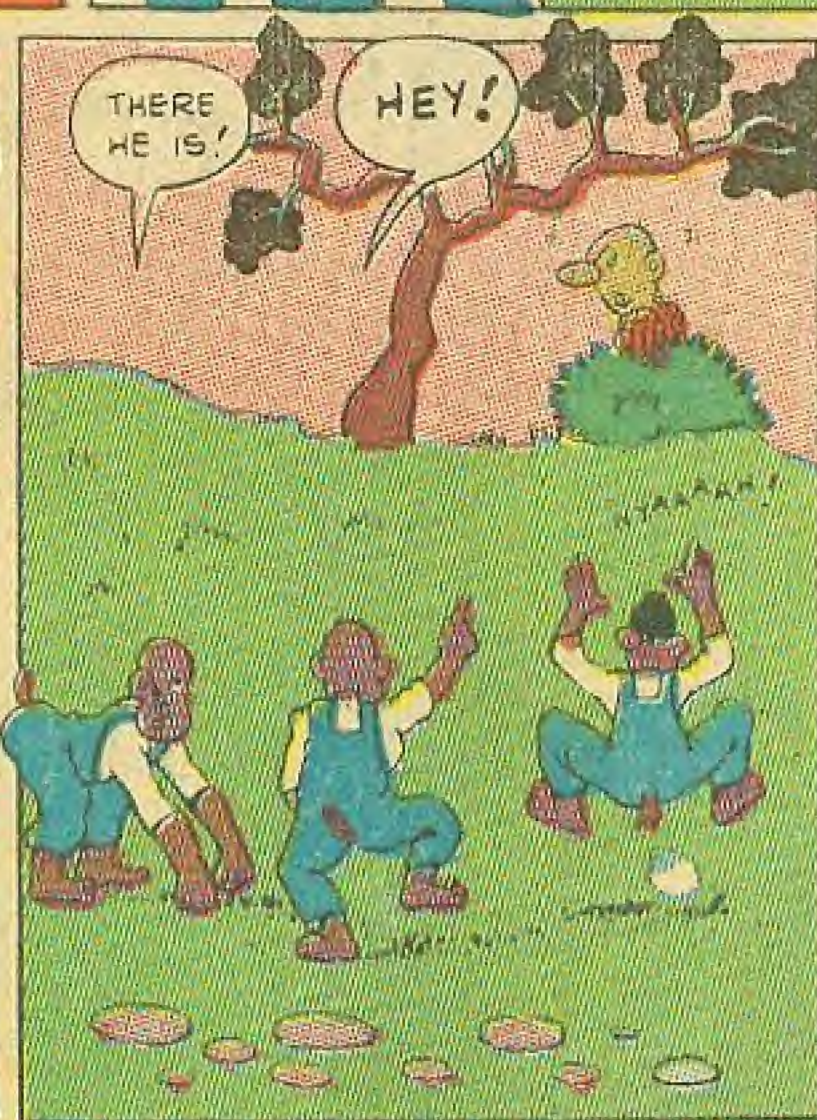
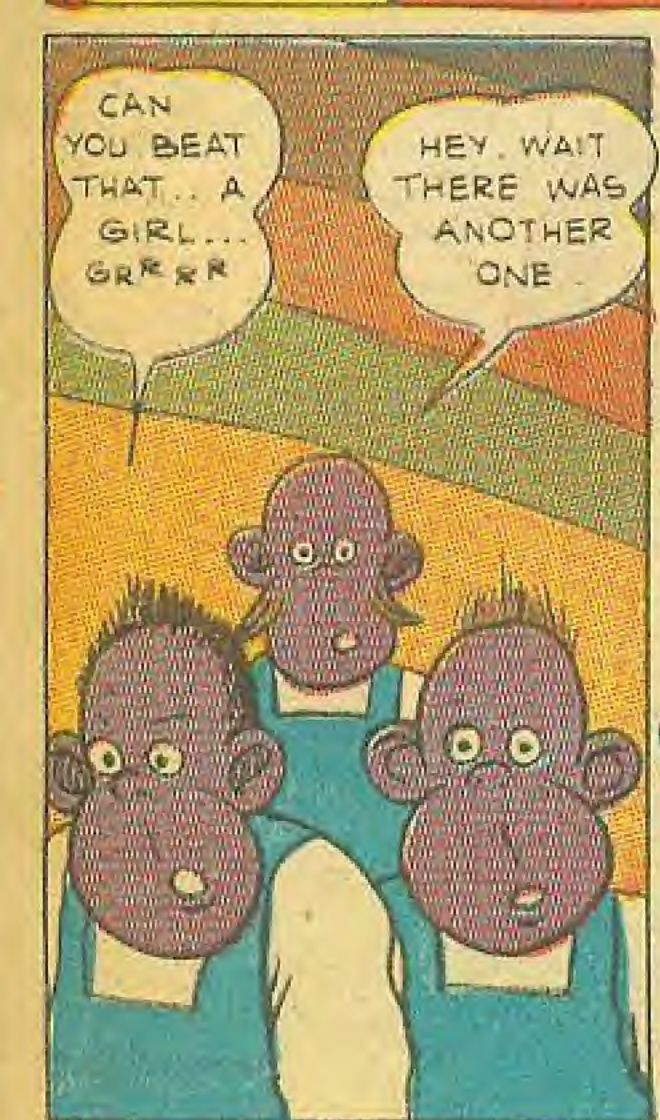
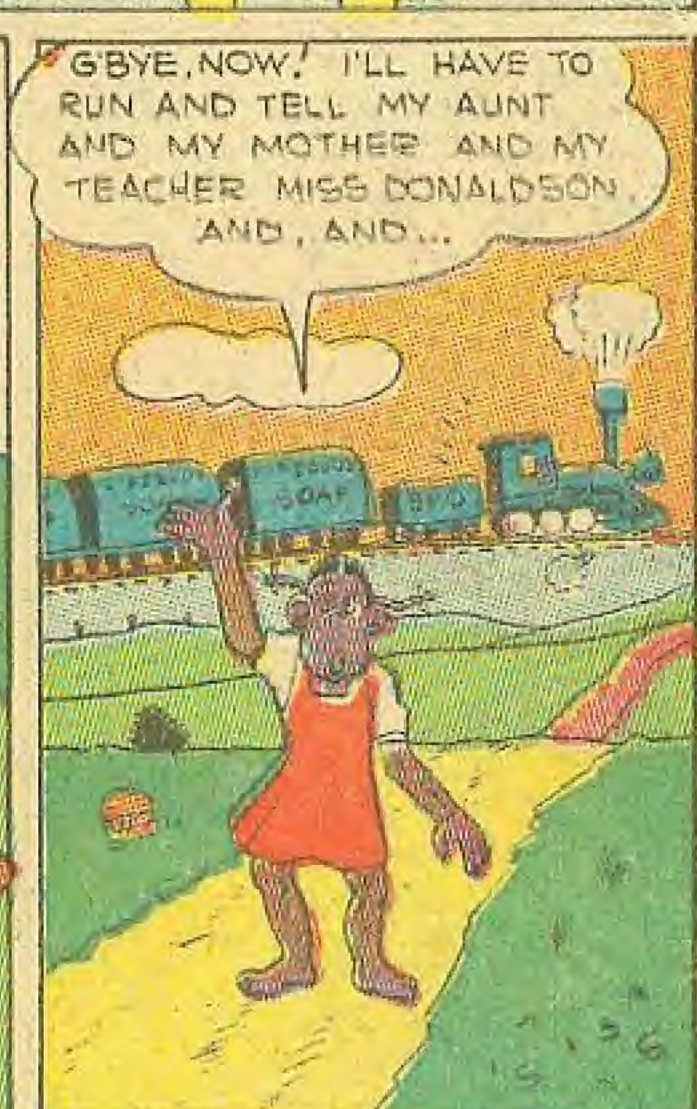
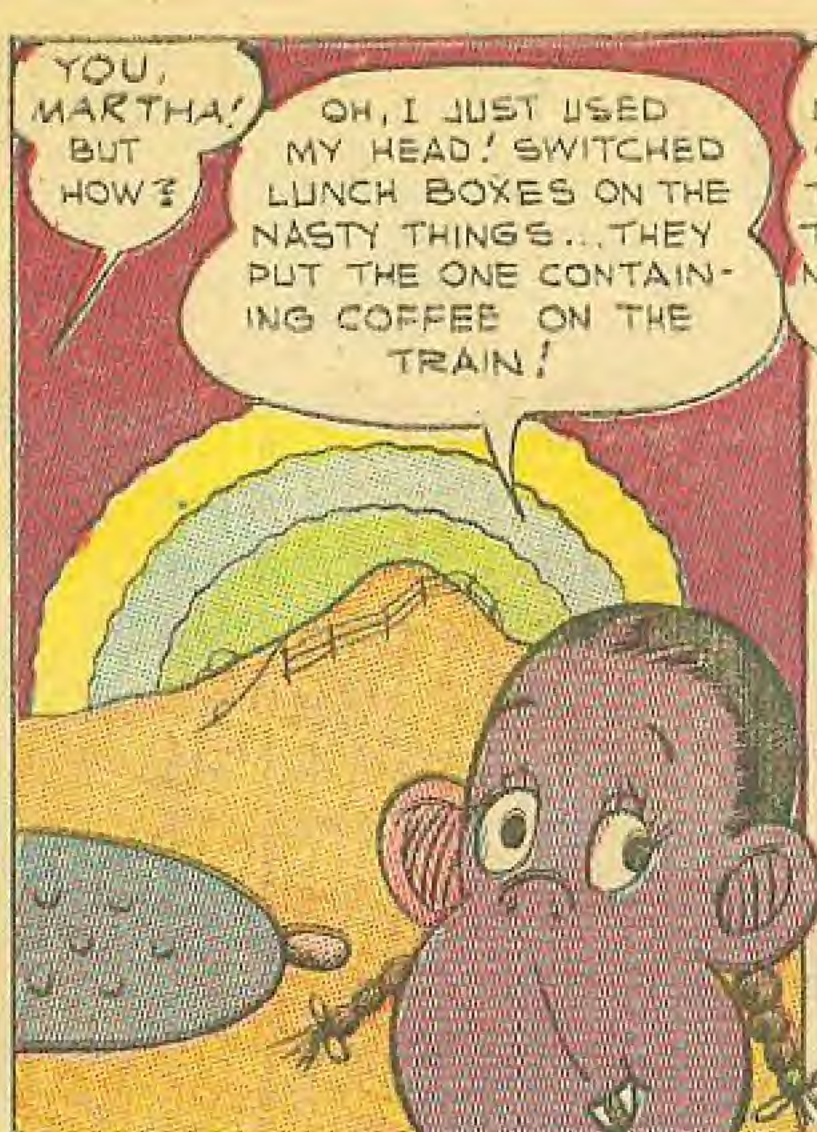
COME QUICKLY! THEY PLAN TO PUT NITRO ABOARD A TRAIN! THE JARRING AT THE RAILROAD CENTER WILL CAUSE IT TO EXPLODE!

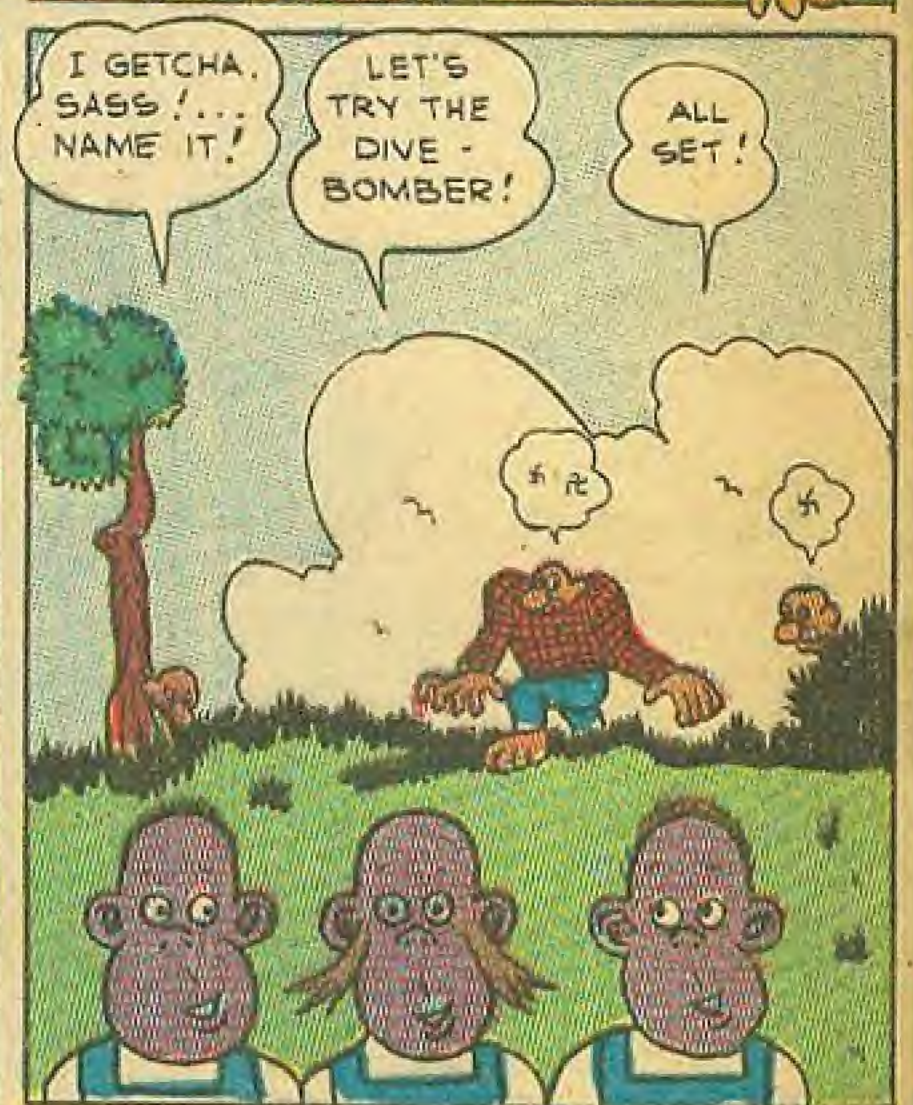
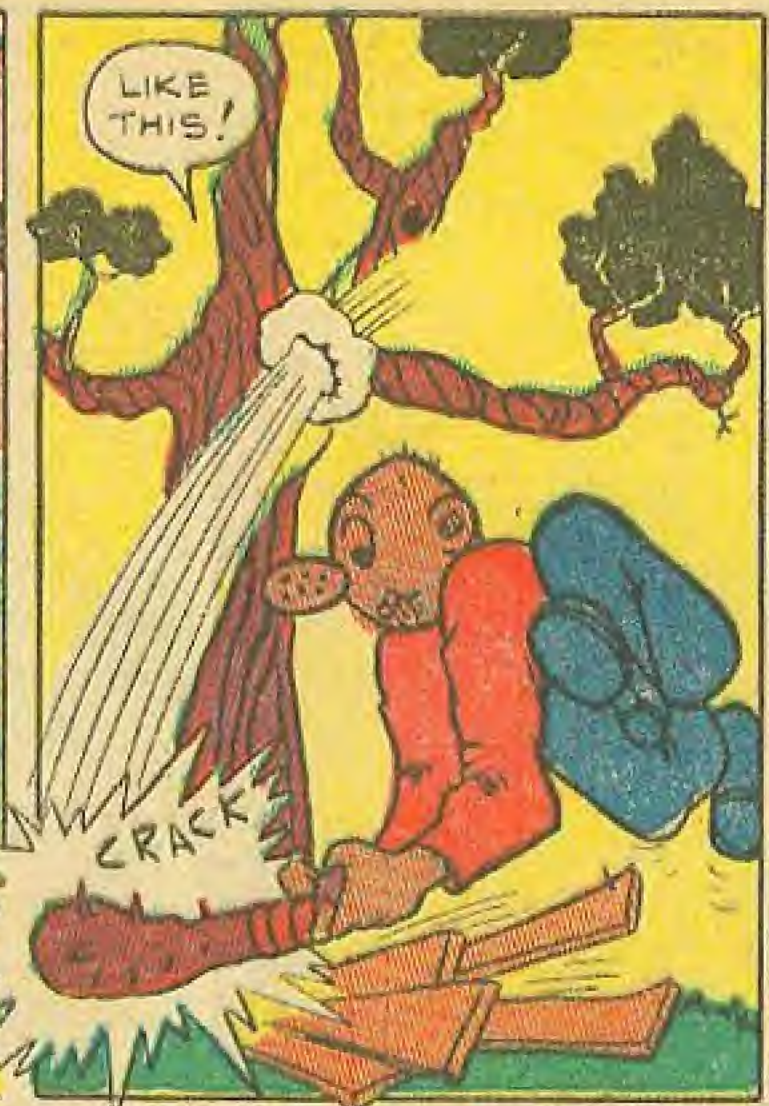
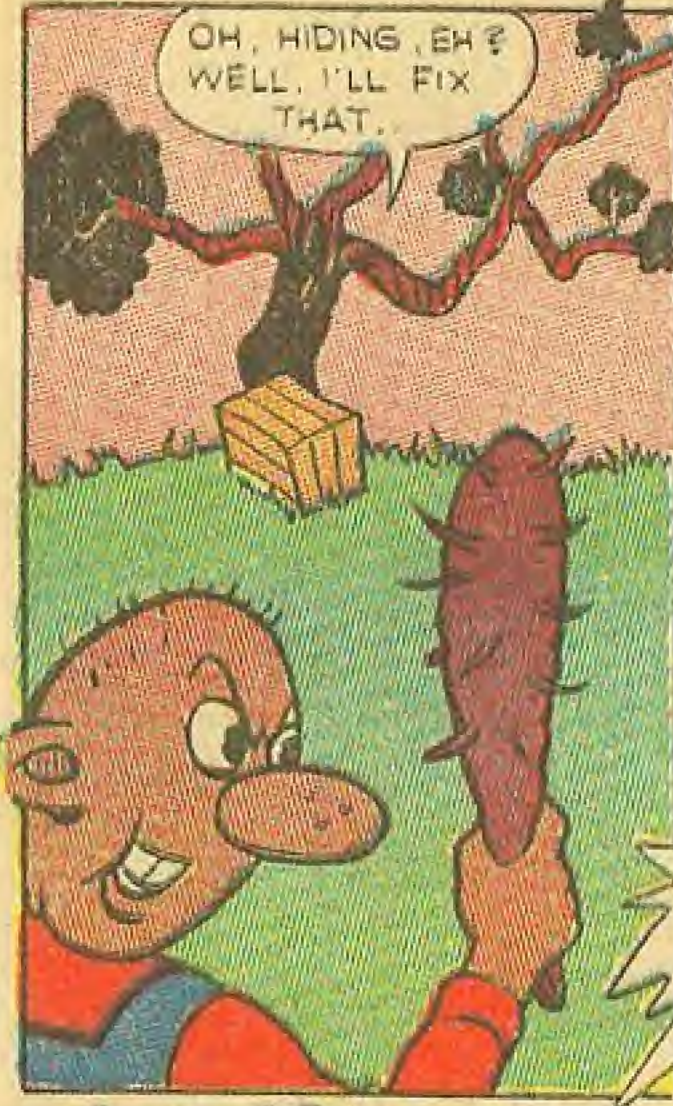


WELL, THAT WENT ALONG GOOD! I GUESS WE DESERVE A DRINK OF COFFEE, EH, PAUL?



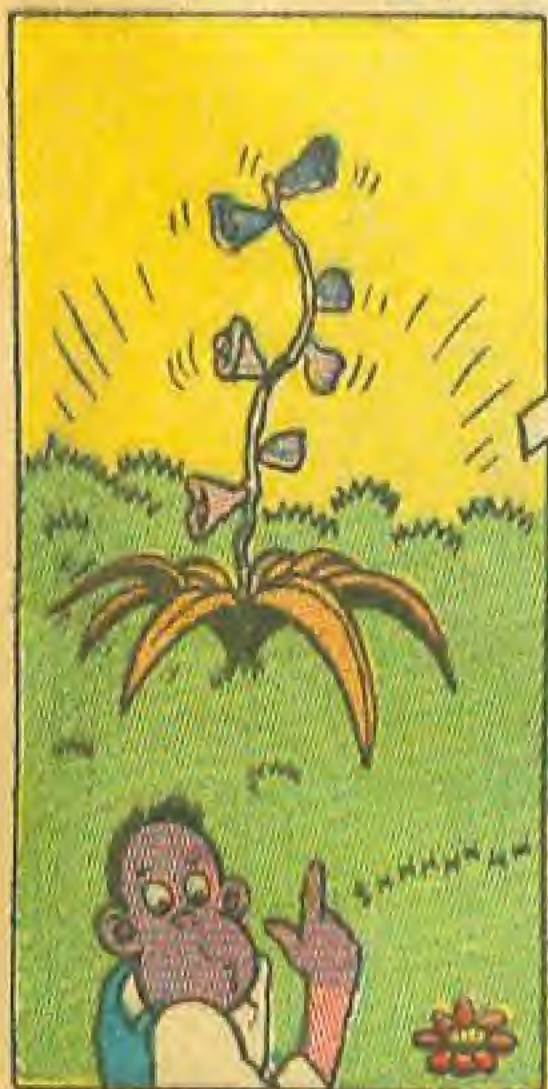
BANG







NOW FOR THE ARTILLERY... 2 OVER 1



BUT HOW DID YOU GET ALL THOSE EMBLEMS BACK?



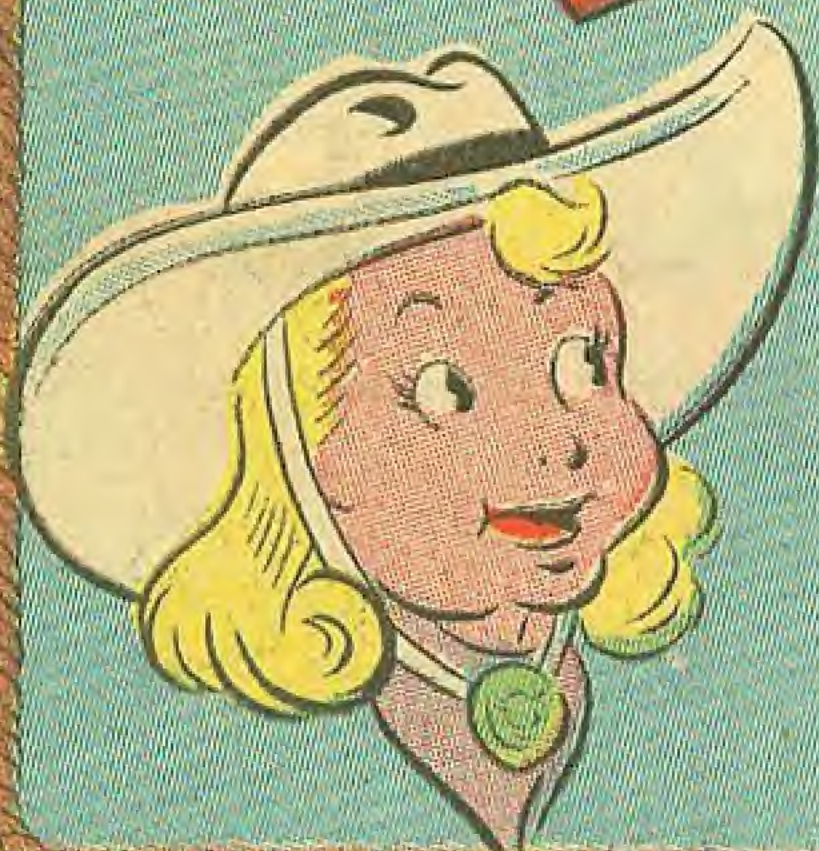
LATER OH, THERE YOU ARE, BOYS! YOU MISSED IT ALL... TELL THEM, MARTHA!



NOW IF THAT ISN'T A FINE THING! "PARTIES UNKNOWN" YEHUDI IS PLENTY SORE--- SMALL FRY DOESN'T KNOW WHAT TO THINK---- BUT SASSAFRAS REALIZED A GOOD JOB WELL DONE IS REWARD ENOUGH! FOLLOW THE THREE MONKEYTEERS AND STUPIDMAN EVERY MONTH IN TOP-NOTCH LAUGH COMICS! LET US KNOW HOW YOU LIKE 'EM!

DOTTY AND DITTO

by
Bill Woggon



IN THE LAST ISSUE WE LEFT DOTTY AND DITTO CRAVING FOR SOME EXCITEMENT AND JUST A STONES THROW AWAY ARE THREE TALENT SCOUTS FROM HOLLYWOOD LOOKING FOR A NEW GIRL STAR WHO MUST BE CUTE AND SAUCY TO PLAY IN CECIL B. DEPILL'S NEXT COLOSSAL PRODUCTION--- GOSH! WHY DOESN'T SOMEBODY SHOW THEM DOTTY !!

I WONDER WHERE THAT DUMB INJUN KID IS WITH OUR FIVE BUCKS CHANGE FROM THAT \$20 I GAVE HIM TO SEND THAT MESSAGE TO C.B. TELLING HIM WE HAD A FORCED LANDING AND NO LUCK SO FAR IN FINDING A NEW GIRL STAR!

YETH! HE WENT TO DOTTY'S RANCH, TO PHONE THE BOSS!

YEAH! THIS DOTTY IS PROBABLY A GOON--THERE'S MORE TALENT RIGHT HERE!(AHEM) WHAT ELSE WOULD YOU LIKE TO HEAR ABOUT HOLLYWOOD, PRINCESS?

TEE-HEE! ARE THERE REALLY **WOLVES** IN HOLLYWOOD?



